Hafa Adai!

Prayers for recovery of honorary Philippine consul Eli Arago. PAGE 2
GOP endorses Guerrero as Saipan mayoral candidate. PAGE 3

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 231

www.saipantribune.com | MONDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2021 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

IN HIGHEST SPIKE YET IN THE CNMI

49 positives ID'd in 3 days

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Since Thursday night to Saturday, a total of 49 individuals have been identified and confirmed positive for COVID-19, mostly surveillance testing. These cases bring the CNMI's total to 457.

As of Nov. 20, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. also reported that there is one active COVID-19-related hospitalization and 79 active cases.

» 1 hospitalized, 79 active cases, 457 total cases

Since Oct. 28, there have been 166 new cases. Of the 166, 107 were identified

See 49 on Page 4

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING — JOSHUA SANTOS

Northern Marianas Technical Institute chief executive officer Jodina Attao, seated right, and Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, seated left, ink a memorandum of understanding that makes official the collaboration and partnership between the technical school and college to better meet the educational and economic needs of the CNMI. Witnessing the signing are, standing from left, CNMI State Workforce Development Board representative Josephine Mesta, NMC Board of Regents chair Charles V. Cepeda, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, NMTI board chair Mario Valentino, and CNMI Public School System acting Education commissioner Eric Magofna.

Kilili: BBBA allocates $1B to insular areas

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sablan

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said the U.S. House of Representatives passed Friday the Build Back Better Act, a social spending plan that provides $1 billion for critical infrastructure in the Marianas and the other insular areas.

In his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend,

See KILILI on Page 4

First auction of IPI equipment on Nov.30

By BEN BLASCHKE
INSIDE ASIAN GAMING

The first of six auctions to sell off gaming equipment owned by Saipan casino operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC will be held on Nov. 30 as receivers look to redeem more than $2 million owed under a U.S. District Court order.

See FIRST on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:41pm, Nov. 21, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: 84.7%

Days since last community transmission: 2

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	33,074
Fully Vaccinated:	30,205
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,943
Fully Vaccinated:	4,758
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	951

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	19,040	29[1]	19,069
Recovered	16,940	0	16,940
Active	1,838	29	1,867
Deaths	262	0	262

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	408	49[2]	457
Traced via Travel Screening	264	2	266
Traced via Community Screening	144	47	191
Deaths	3	0	3

[1]11/21=4; 11/20=4; 11/19=21
[2]11/20=19; 11/29=7; 11/18=23

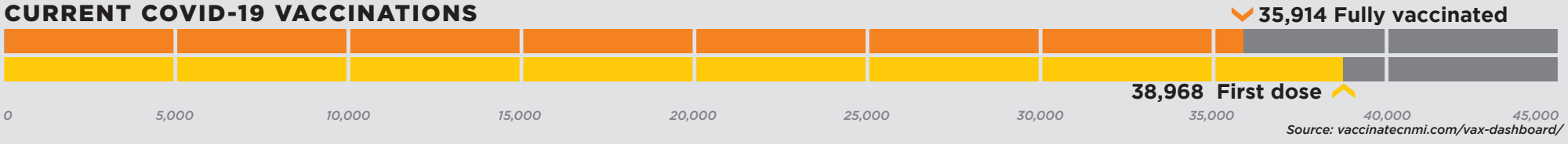
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

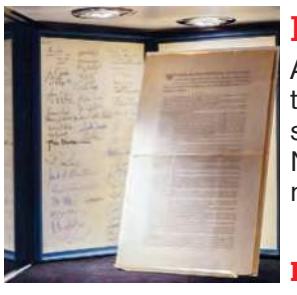


Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

LOCAL
The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is now offering booster shots to all adults ages 18 and older.
PAGE 5

LOCAL
Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club will present the classic Christmas musical *The Sound of Music.*
PAGE 11



LIFE & STYLE
A rare first printing of the U.S. Constitution sold at Sotheby's in New York for $43.2 million.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Prayers for recovery of honorary Philippine consul Eli Arago

The Honorary Philippine Consulate-CNMI issued a statement Saturday that honorary Philippine consul Glicerio "Eli" Arago has been airlifted to Guam for treatment following a serious unexpected "health event" Friday morning.

The statement said Saturday that Arago "is now under the expert care of medical professionals of Guam Regional Medical City" and that he was scheduled to undergo a procedure Saturday evening, Nov. 20, 2021, at GMRH.

Arago

"The Honorary Philippine Consulate-CNMI, through its core team members—Ariel Mariano, Ulysses Torres-Sabuco, Annamae Adaza and Mario Mayuga—expresses its deepest appreciation to the community for their prayers and kind thoughts," the statement said. "The Honorary Philippine Consulate-CNMI is requesting on behalf of the [Arago] family…to respect their privacy."

Saipan Tribune is temporarily withholding more details in keeping with the Arago family's request.

The Honorary Philippine Consulate-CNMI will provide updates on the progress of the honorary Philippine consul's medical procedure and of his expected recovery.

The statement also expresses its appreciation to the "rapid response and medical care" of Saipan's EMTs, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Emergency Room, Medical-Surgical and Intensive Care Unit departments, attending physician Dr. Esther Kanajorn, attending nurses at CHCC's ER, Med-Surg, and ICU departments/units, the U.S. Department of Defense/U.S. Coast Guard, and the support of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez, and TanHoldings Corp. president and CEO Jerry Tan. ***(PR)***

Torres expresses prayers for Arago's recovery

Torres

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on Saturday expressed his prayers for the speedy and thorough recovery of honorary Philippine consul to the CNMI Glicerio "Eli" Arago, who is currently undergoing a medical procedure at the Guam Regional Medical City.

"Diann and I send our best wishes and sincerest prayers to our good friend and a friend of the Commonwealth, Honorary Consul Eli Arago. We were very saddened to hear of his serious and unexpected health event yesterday, which prompted our CHCC medical care units and emergency medical technicians to respond to his urgent care," said Torres in a statement.

"Consul Eli has been a great partner to me in addressing issues that are critical to our Filipino community here in the CNMI. We both share the same goal of improving the lives of our kababayans because this is a community that they call home. Our partnership, and most importantly our friendship, is special to me, and I know that many in our community are praying for his speedy recovery.

"My office will continue to support the Honorary Philippine Consulate-CNMI team with whatever they need to ensure that our consul has a safe and restful recovery so that he can be back home here in the CNMI. We ask our community to join Diann and I in prayers for Consul Eli's speedy recovery," the statement adds. ***(PR)***

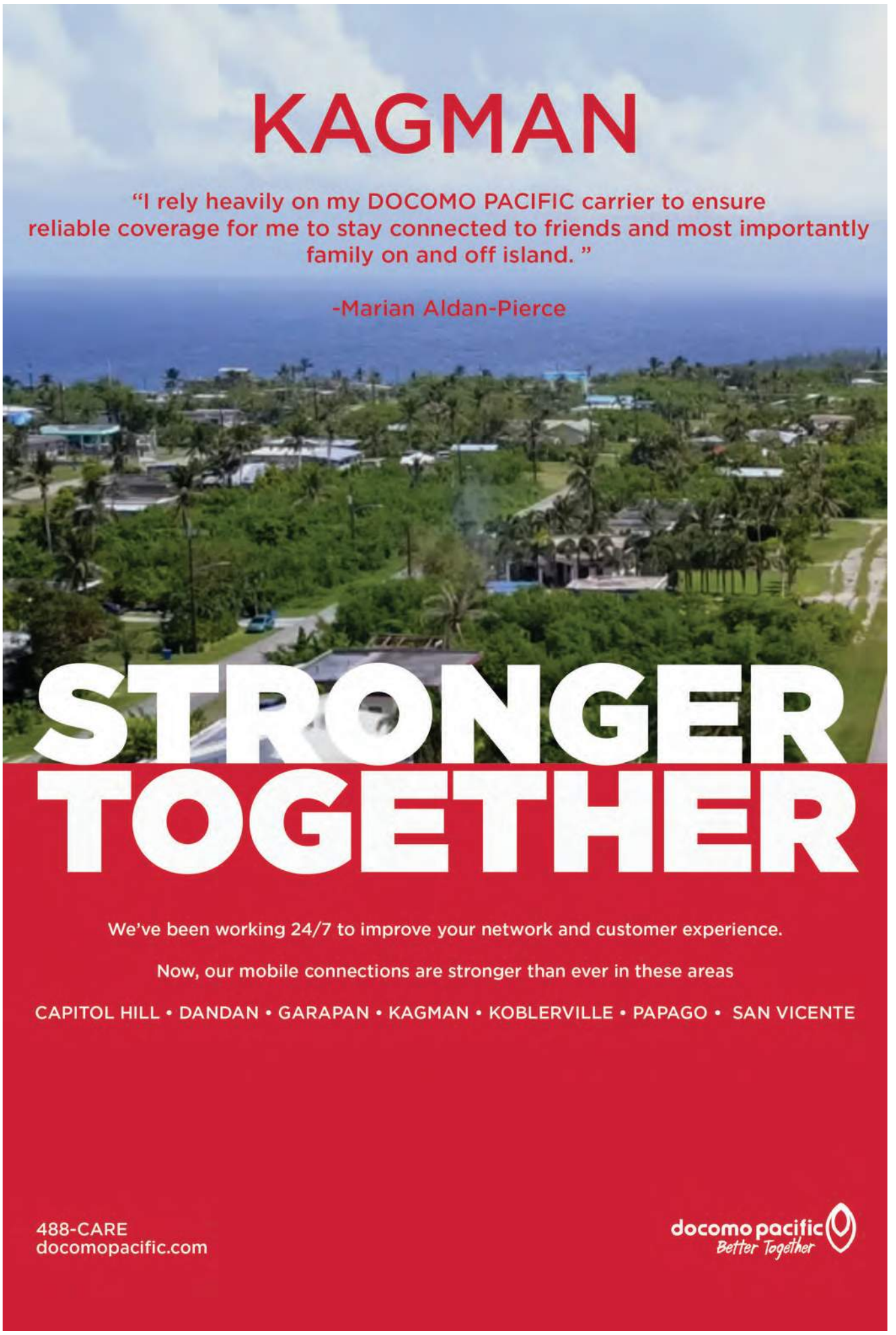
Public input sought for Achugao watershed

How can we enhance the natural, cultural, and built features in Tanapag and San Roque?

We want to hear from you! What's your vision for a healthy environment in your village? Come tell us at Tanapag Middle School Cafeteria on Tuesday, Nov. 23, from 4:30pm to 7pm. This event is open to the whole community.

For the past year the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, in partnership with Horsley-Witten Group, Koa Consulting, and CNMI Government partners have been developing watershed and community improvement options for the Achugao Watershed.

Contact becky@koaconsultingllc.com. ***(PR)***


KAGMAN
"I rely heavily on my DOCOMO PACIFIC carrier to ensure reliable coverage for me to stay connected to friends and most importantly family on and off island."
-Marian Aldan-Pierce
STRONGER TOGETHER
We've been working 24/7 to improve your network and customer experience.
Now, our mobile connections are stronger than ever in these areas
CAPITOL HILL • DANDAN • GARAPAN • KAGMAN • KOBLERVILLE • PAPAGO • SAN VICENTE
488-CARE
docomopacific.com
docomo pacific
Better Together

ATTENTION
Government Employees & Retirees!
SAVE MONEY with the Island Smiles Discount Dental Plan. ENROLL TODAY!
Cheapest Price: $5.00 (Individual Plan), $6.00 (Two-Party Plan) or $7.00 (Family Plan) per bi-weekly allotment. Cheapest dental plan in the CNMI.
Members receive at LEAST 20%-50% discounts on all dental procedures. No exceptions!
Plan Provider: Paradise Dental Spa. State-of-the-art, full service General and Cosmetic dental clinic. Most experienced dentists in the CNMI. Really nice people and the coffee pot is always on! Great aircon and free WiFi.
Award-Winning Dentists kind and gentle
DR. NELSON KRUM
DR. RICHARD ARBUCKLE
Paradise Dental
Spa
Hawaii Dental Service, Take Care, Calvo's, Cigna, Staywell, and LHI Insurances also accepted. Medicaid patients welcome! Best Aircon on the island, and the coffee pot is always on!
Call 234-4040
Middle Road, Gualo Rai, across from Chong's Refrigeration
Stop by and pick up your enrollment packet or send an email request to paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com
www.paradisedentalspa.com instagram.com/paradisedentalspa facebook.com/paradisedentalspa

GOP endorses Guerrero as Saipan mayoral candidate

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Lizama confirms he is also running for Saipan mayor

The CNMI Republican Party has decided to endorse Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Tenorio Guerrero (R-Saipan) as the party's candidate for Saipan mayor at the November 2022 general elections.

Guerrero

CNMI Republican Party acting president Candace Q. Celis recently notified Guerrero that they reviewed his letter of intent to run as mayor and that the party's board has unanimously endorsed his candidacy.

"You are now a CNMI Republican mayor candidate for Saipan as of the date of this letter, and we are honored to have you on our team," said Celis in a letter dated Nov. 9, 2021, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend.

Guerrero is now on his fourth term as a House representative for Precinct 1.

When asked for comments, Guerrero said yesterday he is honored by the party's decision. He said his vision is to move the Mayor's Office in a direction that will directly address community development and services, focusing on primarily improving the qualify life for people and village beautification.

"Working together is key—by working individually with you, my aim is to ensure that your issues are addressed timely and properly," the lawmaker said.

Guerrero said he looks forward to working closely with the Governor's Office, Legislature and regulatory agencies.

Guerrero was a parole officer before joining politics. He started as a House representative in 2015 when the late governor Eloy Inos asked him to run with him under the

See GOP on Next Page

'There are other quarantine violators'

It wasn't just David Butterfield who violated mandatory quarantine, according to Governor's COVID-19 Taskforce chair Warren Villagomez, and that they are still awaiting word from the Office of the Attorney General criminal division whether these persons will be brought to court for leaving quarantine facilities.

Villagomez

During a weekly press briefing last Friday, Villagomez said that discussion remain ongoing between the task force and Office of the Attorney General's chief prosecutor on whether Butterfield, along with others, will be charged

See THERE on Next Page

ARMATECH

Wireless WIFI Antenna Installer and Repairer
Tel: (670) 234-8895 I Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

Application Deadline: December 10, 2021
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CONGRESSMAN GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Serving the People of the Northern Mariana Islands
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS
Opportunities to learn and serve at a U.S. Service Academy include a **fully funded undergraduate education** and a **commission as a military officer** upon graduation.
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
U.S. Military Academy
U.S. Air Force Academy
U.S. Naval Academy
Eligibility: U.S. citizen, unmarried with no dependents, age 17-23, high school senior or graduate, and must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academies
To access the nomination application or for more information, visit sablan.house.gov or call 670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota.
Paid for by official funds authorized by the House of Representatives.

Shell V-Power
SCRATCH & WIN
GUARANTEED PRIZE EVERY TIME
Get a scratch card when you purchase at least 5 gallons of V-Power Fuel and present your PACIFICPOINTS card.
*Conditions may apply. See store for details.

Torres' chief of staff appears before JGO

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Screengrab shows former Guam senator William Mendiola Castro, who is now the chief of staff of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, testifying Friday before the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

William Mendiola Castro, a former Guam senator who is now the chief of staff of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, testified Friday before the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee that is investigating Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels.

In response to JGO members' questions, Castro testified about Torres' participation in the Marianas Working Group, which Castro explained as a policy framework established between the CNMI and Guam. Castro said the Group's basic element is designed to address issues of mutual concern and benefit.

Before discussing about the Group, the chief of staff stated that the subpoena issued to him relates to certain receipts, claims or reimbursements, but that he will answer questions outside of these receipts.

He said Torres gave remarks at meetings in Guam multiple times and that first lady Diann T. Torres was also part of the Group's welcoming team almost every time.

Castro said that whenever the Guam delegation would arrive on site at the Group's events, nine times out of 10, Diann Torres would be on the side of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to extend her hand and appreciation for their participation.

Castro also answered questions related to an appreciation barbecue held at his personal residence on a weekend in the evening sometime in the spring of 2019. He said he already issued a statement to this effect to Rep. Christina Sablan (D-Saipan) in July of 2020.

The chief of staff said the purpose of the gathering was to thank all those on Guam who donated thousands of items to assist the CNMI in their recovery from Super Typhoon Yutu. "As is custom in my family and, for most Chamoru and most Pacific island cultures, it is customary to bring something to a social gathering, in his case—food and refreshments," he said.

Castro said Torres did make an appearance and he made a donation connected to this event. He said Torres' donation was placed on a table in the open as with other food and drinks.

"While the event was hosted at my private residence using private funds and not in my official capacity as a Guam senator at the time, I appreciated that the head of state, the governor of the CNMI was present to convey a few words on behalf of a grateful community," Torres said.

Castro said Torres addressed those who were present by extending his appreciation for all that were donated to Tinian and Saipan: 50 portable stoves, 100 hammers, 5,000 nails, 250 pillows, and 2,000 blankets, sanitary items for women and children, small refrigerators, and close to 80 monitors for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Castro said the point is that Guam gave freely and in a very big way as part of its love for the Marianas.

He said the first of these items, as Guam and CNMI media reported, were transported on three small boats that sailed to Tinian just days after the eye of the typhoon passed through the south of Saipan and over Tinian. Castro said he knows because he was on that 14-16-hour voyage in typhoon-condition waters. He said they had 13 boats committed but because of the conditions they were fortunate even three came out and help.

"We did this at no cost to the people of the Commonwealth, but at great personal risk to life and definitely shared expense," Castro said.

In a travel authorization for Torres taken on Nov. 11 and 12, 2017, Castro said he can't recall meeting Torres at that time. When Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) pointed out that this meeting would have occurred on Veteran's Day back in 2017 and over the weekend, from Saturday to Sunday, and asked if they had a meeting even on a holiday, Castro replied that in their line of work, they're going to do it whenever it's possible to do it. "So the short answer would be yes," Castro said.

As for a Home Depot trip Torres took on Nov. 11, 2017, Castro said he does not recall that he accompanying Torres on this trip. "Is my name anywhere associated with this particular receipt?" Castro asked, to which Rep. Richard T. Lizama (D-Saipan) answered "no."

Castro also stated he did not go with Torres on a boat back to Saipan.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

49

From Page 1

through contact tracing, 48 through community-based testing, and 11 through travel testing.

CHCC put out three releases between Nov. 18 to 20, reporting in total 49 of the CNMI's most recent cases of COVID-19.

On Nov. 18, CHCC reported that 23 positive cases were identified through travel and surveillance testing on Nov. 17—so far the highest single-day increase in the number of positive cases identified in the CNMI since the pandemic started in March 2020. A day after, seven were found through travel and surveillance testing on Nov. 14 and 18. On Nov. 20, 19 cases were found through surveillance testing on Nov. 19.

In all its news releases over the weekend, CHCC said all affected individuals have since been isolated and are being actively monitored. CHCC added that its Communicable Disease Investigation/ Inspection team has already reached out to individuals who were in closest contact to these cases and that the contact tracing team's efforts "will continue until all probable cases are identified and tested".

In related news, speaking on the radio last Friday, CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña said that, as of last Friday, around 70% of the cases identified since Oct. 28 were found through contact tracing. Muña said she is confident in the contact tracing team's ability to "identify the high-risk individuals quickly, get them tested, and quarantined if necessary."

Speaking briefly about the one active hospitalization, Muña said Friday that the individual is receiving treatment and is being actively monitored. Muña added that she checked on the patient last Friday and that the person is stable. For the sake of patient privacy, Muña said no further information will be disclosed at this time.

Muña also reminds the community: "We are still in a pandemic, but we have the vaccination rate and treatment to fight it." She also asked the community to continue following the "3 W's": wash your hands, watch your distance, and wear a face covering.

KILILI

From Page 1

Sablan said the Build Back Better Act could continue to transform the lives of the people in the Marianas for years, coming on top of over $2 billion in federal aid to the CNMI in three years.

He said the bill now moves to closely divided Senate, where it can be amended, and may come back to the House for final approval.

The delegate said no Republicans voted for the Build Back Better Act in the House, and that none are expected to vote too in the Senate.

He said House Resolution 5376, commonly referred to as the Build Back Better Act, increases base funding for Medicaid to $70 million, more than ever before, and permanently lowers the local match to 11%, a rate better than any state.

The delegate said the Build Back Better Act extends the Child Tax Credit that has already provided $28.7 million up front to Marianas families this year.

Build Back Better also funds prekindergarten education in the Marianas, has more money for Head Start, and will help working parents with child care.

Sablan said as chairman of the Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee, there are all changes he has been pushing for.

He said the $1 billion for critical infrastructure in the Marianas and the other insular areas, is on top of the $100 million for the Marianas in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act President Joe Biden signed a week ago.

FIRST

From Page 1

Clear Management Ltd, a company headed by Silver Heritage Group co-founder Tim Shepherd, was appointed as receiver in October after IPI was ordered to repay $2.1 million to USA Fanter Corp. for construction work at IPI's Saipan hotel and casino, Imperial Palace Saipan, in 2019. Legal action was launched in January 2020 after IPI failed to pay.

A total of six auctions will be held—one per month until April 29, 2022—with Clear Management now taking blind bids for the Nov. 30 event.

"The auction is proceeding well," Shepherd told Inside Asian Gaming.

"IPI provided the court its inventory and the good news is that the Commonwealth Casino Commission has been very professional and they have not let any equipment out of that casino. The idea some assets might have gone missing in the 18 months since the casino was closed [in March 2020] has proven not to be the case which is good news.

"We have committed to putting everything up for auction at least two weeks before each auction, which gives people plenty of time to bid. The good news is we are getting bids already so it's all going well."

Imperial Palace Saipan closed its doors in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but IPI has since had its casino license suspended by the CCC following a series of complaints for failure to comply with certain requirements under its license agreement.

The complaints, filed by CCC executive director Andrew Yeom, relate to IPI's failure to pay its annual $15.5 million license fee in August 2020, failure to pay its annual $3.1 million regulatory fee in October 2020, failure to contribute $20 million to the community benefit fund in both 2018 and 2019, failure to comply with its minimum $2 billion capital requirement and failure to comply with a CCC order to pay all money owing to its vendors.

IPI was also given six months from April to repay both the $15.5 million casino license fee and $3.1 million regulatory fee, as well as a $6.6 million fine, or risk having its license revoked.

The company has since filed an administrative request for the Superior Court on Saipan to conduct a judicial review into its license suspension, which is ongoing.

However, the company is currently at risk of having its license revoked altogether, potentially leaving it with a substantial integrated resort development it can neither complete nor effectively utilize.

As for the IPI's dormant gaming equipment, valued a year ago at around $2.25 million, Shepherd said he was simply focused on maximizing value for the benefit of the plaintiff.

"The valuation might be a bit different now," he said. "Whether we can get that full amount, time will tell. The creditor has sued for and won $2.1 million so we will get as much as we can for them.

"We're hopeful, the bids are coming in and our job is to sell everything we can for as much money as we can."

To view the equipment available at auction, visit www.gamingequipmentauction.com.

Editor's Note: Reprinted with permission. Originally published in https://www.asgam.com/index.php/2021/11/19/first-auction-of-imperial-pacifics-saipan-casino-equipment-set-for-30-november/

GOP

From Page 3

Covenant Party. The Covenant later joined the GOP.

Board of Parole chair Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho is also running for Saipan mayor. He earlier stated that if the NMI Democratic Party will not endorse his candidacy, he will run as an independent .

Rep. Richard T. Lizama (D-Saipan) also confirmed yesterday that he is running for Saipan mayor.

Lizama said the Democratic Party is going to endorse him but, if there are any changes, he will run as an independent candidate.

Lizama said they are waiting for the Democratic Party's announcement as to who their lieutenant governor bet to pair with their gubernatorial candidate. Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan).

THERE

From Page 3

and tried in court for allegedly escaping the Kanoa Quarantine Facility without an all-clear from the task force.

"I have been in discussion with the AG's criminal chief prosecutor. … We're getting details and more information but we're working on those violators. It's not just [Butterfield], so we'll provide more updates down the road," he said.

DPS arrested Butterfield last month after he fled the Kanoa Resort six days into his mandatory quarantine. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

COVID-19 vaccine booster shots now available to age 18 or older

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Governor's COVID-19 Task Force are expanding the availability of COVID-19 booster shots and is now offering booster shots to all adults ages 18 years and older.

A CHCC statement said this move comes with guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration

Individuals who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine may receive a booster shot at least six months after completing their primary series. Individuals who received a Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine should receive a booster shot at least two months after completing their primary series.

Individuals can obtain a booster shot by walking into the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Monday to Saturday, 8am-4pm, and requesting the additional dose.

The COVID-19 vaccines approved and authorized in the U.S. continue to be effective at reducing the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death.

Adverse reactions reported after getting booster shots were similar to the primary series/shot. Fatigue and pain at the injection site were the most commonly reported side effects, and overall, most side effects were mild to moderate. However, as with the 2-shot primary series, serious side effects are rare but may occur.

Individuals who have questions about booster doses should talk to their healthcare provider about their medical condition and whether getting a booster shot is appropriate for them. ***(PR)***

Torres: Holding Dela Cruz in contempt is 'out of bounds'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres described Friday "as out of bounds" the House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee's action to hold Frances M. Dela Cruz in criminal contempt.

When asked during his radio press briefing last Friday to comment on the JGO decision, Torres said he had already written to JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) to provide him with questions or their concerns, but they have not done so.

"If I'm the target, [if] they want me to answer questions, why haven't they done that?" he asked.

When asked about Torres' statement yesterday, Babauta asked about Torres' exact statutory citation.

Dela Cruz, who is Torres' executive assistant, was held in contempt by the JGO after she refused to answer questions during last Tuesday's hearing, repeatedly reading instead a statement citing her reasons for objecting to the subpoena issued her. She appeared at the JGO hearing with counsel, Viola Alepuyo.

The JGO, which is controlled by Democrat representatives, is investigating Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels.

Torres noted that the JGO voted to subpoena him in mid-August, but it's already been over three months and there has been no subpoena.

"Why haven't they subpoenaed me?" asked Torres, adding that the JGO has not reached out to him about their concerns and questions that they need him to answer.

The governor also asked why the JGO continues going after all these government employees and putting them into this situation.

He said Dela Cruz took her actions and that they will wait for the contempt process to go through.

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (D-Saipan) has certified the JGO's decision and has requested Attorney General Edward Manibusan to initiate prosecution against Dela Cruz.

Torres said he has requested the JGO Committee to provide him with all their concerns and questions by Nov. 15, 2021, but as of Friday he has not received any response.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DCRM closed today, tomorrow

The Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality would like to inform the public that the Division of Coastal Resources Management will be closed today, Nov. 22, and tomorrow, Nov. 23, for a professional development workshop. As such, payments can be made at the CNMI Treasury Office. Regular office hours will resume on Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021. ***(PR)***

4.4-magnitude quake at Maug region

At 6:38pm on Nov. 18, 2021, a report of a 4.4-magnitude earthquake occurred at Maug Islands region in the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, no Tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

Stay Connected
Payment Notice
We want to keep you connected to everything that matters to you. To avoid any service interruptions to your residential, business, or government account, please make payment by **Tuesday, November 23, 2021.**
For your health and safety when visiting our store, please wear a mask and be mindful of the social distancing measures we have in place. If you prefer not to visit, you may make payment online at store.ite.net/onlinebilling or by calling Customer Care at 682-4ITE (4483).
ite.net itecnmi itecnmi
IT&E

Another year of free Thanksgiving meals at Majesty Chinese Restaurant

Majesty Chinese Restaurant will be distributing free pre-packaged meals this Thursday, Nov. 25, from 4pm to 5pm or while supplies last. The Thanksgiving meals will be distributed at the restaurant itself in Garapan. Anyone wishing to refer a struggling person or low-income family in need of a Thanksgiving meal can email Majesty at majesty.catering@tdsaipan.com.

Majesty said Tuesday last week that it started giving out free Thanksgiving meals last year as the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the community and how everyone celebrated the holiday, and that it is happy to give out meals again this year.

File photo of Majesty Chinese Restaurant's free pre-packaged meals that it gave out on Thanksgiving last year. This year, Majesty will again be distributing free pre-packaged meals at its Garapan location on Thanksgiving, Nov. 25, from 4pm to 5pm or while supplies last. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Every year, churches and other organizations in the CNMI provide thousands of meals to residents. This year is no exception, [as] the pandemic has changed the way [that] Thanksgiving gatherings are held. Majesty Restaurant & Catering, a local establishment that has been distributing and delivering free meals on Sundays, is distributing Thanksgiving meals again this year," said the restaurant in an email message.

Majesty said it will be strictly enforcing social distancing and mask wearing, and said that it is possible that the meal pickup will be a drive-through-style event come Thursday. Majesty added that all the meals will be prepared in-house by the restaurant's culinary team.

In Majesty's first run of serving free Thanksgiving meals, it gave out almost 200 meals. ***(Joshua Santos)***

Financial aid application, scholarship deadlines, placement test dates

Northern Marianas College is reminding the community that the deadline to submit applications for admission for NMC's spring 2022 semester is Dec. 1, 2021. The deadline to register for classes for the spring 2022 semester is Jan. 3, 2022.

Financial aid is also available for the spring 2022 semester. The scholarship deadlines are as follows:

- Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Application deadline: Dec. 1, 2021
- CNMI Scholarship deadline: Dec. 15, 2021
- Pell Grant (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): Dec. 2, 2021
- APIA Scholarship for fall 2022: Jan. 25, 2022

In addition, prospective college students will need to take a Math and English placement test. The available dates to take the placement tests are as follows:

- 11/24/21 at 9:30am
- 12/2/21 at 9:30am and 1:30pm
- 12/2/21 at 9:30am and 1:30pm
- 12/9/21 at 9:30am and 1:30pm
- 12/10/21 at 9:30am
- 12/13/21 at 9:30am and 1:30pm
- 12/14/21 at 9:30am and 1:30pm
- 12/17/21 at 9:30am
- 1/3/22 at 9:30am and 1:30pm
- 1/4/22 at 9:30am and 1:30pm
- 1/5/22 at 9:30am and 1:30pm
- 1/10/22 at 9:30am and 1:30pm
- 1/13/22 at 9:30am and 1:30pm
- 1/14/22 at 9:30am and 1:30pm
- 1/17/22 at 9:30am and 1:30pm
- 1/18/22 at 9:30am
- 1/19/22 at 9:30am
- 1/20/22 at 9:30am

Applications can be submitted online via the NMC website at www.marianas.edu or in-person by visiting the Office of Admissions and Records at NMC's As Terlaje campus. The office is open from 9am to 4pm from Monday to Friday, excluding holidays.

Individuals who need help with their financial aid applications can email NMC's Financial Aid Office at fao@marianas.edu or call 237-6791/2/3/4.

To take a placement test on any of the dates listed, email testing coordinator Isabel Matsunaga at isabel.matsunaga@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6774.

For more information on NMC's upcoming spring 2022 semester, visit www.marianas.edu or call 237-6768/69/70. ***(NMC)***

Limited hours at NMI Judiciary

The Judiciary will have limited business hours this week due to the annual professional development and employee recognition series on Saipan, and Thanksgiving holiday. Hours of operation will be as follows:

- Monday, Nov. 22, 2021: Closed on Rota, Saipan and Tinian due to professional development series;
- Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021: Closed on Rota, Saipan and Tinian due to professional development series;
- Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021: Regular business hours on Rota, Saipan, Tinian
- Thursday, Nov. 25, 2021: Closed on Rota, Saipan and Tinian due to Thanksgiving holiday;
- Friday, Nov. 26, 2021: Regular business hours on Rota, Saipan and Tinian.

While facilities are closed, Judiciary personnel may be teleworking or activated for emergency and essential services. Bail, family protection, emergency and time-sensitive hearings may be set consistent with Supreme Court Order No. 2020-ADM-0024-MSC (Amended COVID-19 Order No. 15) or the latest order thereof and subsequent court orders. Visit the Judiciary's website at www.nmijudiciary.com for court information and www.cnmilaw.org to review the Order.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the following individuals: CNMI Supreme Court Clerk of Court Judy T. Aldan at (670) 236-9718 or email judy.aldan@nmijudiciary.com; CNMI Superior Court Clerk of Court Patrick V. Diaz at (670) 236-9766 or (670) 783-8417 or email patrick.diaz@nmijudiciary.com. ***(PR)***

DROPOFF SITE

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Dental Clinic is an official 2021 "Toys for Tots" partner this holiday season. Community members who would like to donate toys to the "Toys for Tots" program can drop off their donation at Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Dental Clinic. The "Toys for Tots" program is a charitable initiative hosted by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve that provides toys to disadvantaged children during the Christmas holiday season. The program is spearheaded by the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. Businesses who would like to participate in this program and host a toy collection box can email saipantoys4tots@gmail.com. **NMC**

CNMI, Guam, PR to benefit from $222M USDA funding

WILLARD, Mo.—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is investing $222 million to build and improve critical community facilities in 44 states, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands and Puerto Rico to benefit nearly 2.5 million people in rural communities.

In announcing the grant funding last Friday, USDA Undersecretary for Rural Development Xochitl Torres Small said this community infrastructure funding will It also includes $132 million to support health care, food security, and emergency response services for more than 850,000 rural residents in 37 states.

"The Biden-Harris Administration is delivering on its promise to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and rebuild our economy," Torres Small said. "Rural Americans need emergency response, hospitals and medical facilities, and USDA's loans and grants invest in critical infrastructure to make that possible. USDA Rural Development puts rural people at the forefront of investment and opportunity to help us all build back better, stronger, and more resilient."

USDA is investing in 536 projects through the Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program. The assistance will fund essential community services that will help keep rural America resilient in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The projects will finance emergency response vehicles and equipment; build or improve hospitals and clinics; and combat food insecurity.

The investments announced Friday will support community infrastructure projects in Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Wyoming, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands and Puerto Rico.

More than 100 types of projects are eligible for Community Facilities funding. Eligible applicants include municipalities, public bodies, nonprofit organizations, and federally recognized Native American tribes. Projects must be in rural areas with a population of 20,000 or less. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program.

These investments complement the recently announced funding availability under USDA's Emergency Rural Health Care Grant Program, which also is being administered through the Community Facilities program. Through this program, USDA is making up to $500 million available through the American Rescue Plan to help rural health care facilities, tribes and communities expand access to COVID-19 vaccines, health care services and nutrition assistance.

Under the Emergency Rural Health Care Grant Program, Recovery Grant applications will be accepted on a continual basis until funds are expended. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov/erhc.

Interested parties should contact their USDA Rural Development state office for information about additional funding, application procedures and eligibility. Also see the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program Guidance Book for Applicants for a detailed overview of the application process.

Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, Tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov. ***(PR)***

BUY ANY IPHONE AND
GET AIRPODS ON US
AirPods
Plus get a $50 credit when you bring your number with you
ite.net itecnmi itecnmi
Terms and conditions apply. Valid from 11/22/21-11/30/21. Purchase any iPhone on the $80 or $55 plans and receive Free AirPods 2nd Gen. 24-month contract required. Offer good while supplies last. Subject to credit check. Visit ite.net for details.
BUY NOW. ACTIVATE LATER.
EARN PACIFICPOINTS
IT&E

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 231

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

America's conversion to electric cars ignores a major strategic vulnerability

As the United States tries to wean itself from fossil fuels and rebuild its infrastructure to make electric car usage more feasible, policymakers need to ask whether the nation is prepared for a risky trade-off: tying Americans to dependence on yet another foreign source of energy. The electricity powering these vehicles is generated entirely at home, but electric cars are useless without batteries, and one nation completely dominates the battery market: China.

That's the same nation the United States has accused repeatedly of spying on U.S. manufacturers, stealing U.S. trade secrets and unfairly subsidizing Chinese companies. The same country that is steadily seizing chunks of the South China Sea and harassing ships and fishing boats from other nations—prompting the United States to step up naval patrols in response. The same country whose growing military might and ability to deliver intercontinental ballistic missiles has prompted the United States to sign a $66 billion deal to supply Australia with nuclear submarines. The same country currently harassing Taiwan and shown in recent satellite imagery constructing mock U.S. warships in a desert to be used by Chinese aircraft for target practice.

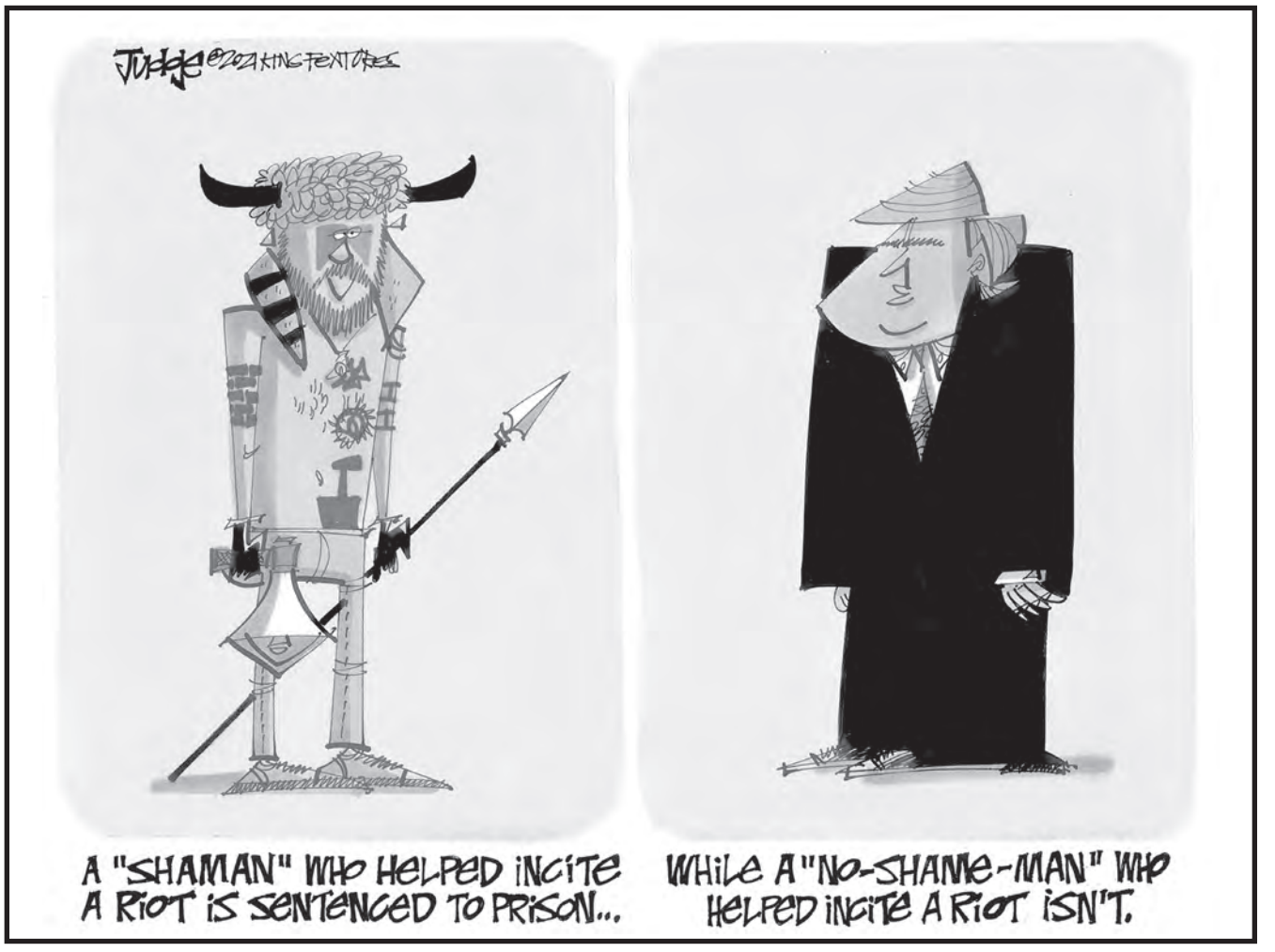
There's little doubt China is gearing up for potential confrontation with the United States on every commercial, military and strategic level. The West cannot afford to be dependent on a nation that has potentially hostile intentions while it also controls the single component that makes America's conversion to electric cars and trucks viable.

According to production statistics compiled by Bloomberg, China ranks first in the world in the mining of the raw materials to make electric-vehicle batteries: lithium, nickel, manganese, graphite and cobalt (the United States ranks 11th worldwide). China is first in battery manufacturing (the United States ranks fourth; it is second behind China in demand for batteries). China has among the lowest environmental standards for battery manufacturing, meaning it is less hindered by costly regulations from polluting the air and water in its quest to maintain global market domination.

The United States learned the hard way after the 1973 Middle East war, when Arab members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries called a boycott to punish the United States for supporting Israel: When political and military interests intersect with access to a crucial commodity, national security cannot help but be compromised. The Soviet Union emerged one of the primary beneficiaries, with ongoing access to cheap oil, as U.S. pump prices doubled and cars lined up for blocks outside gas stations.

Today's archrival is China at a time when Americans are working hard to cut greenhouse gases by converting to electric cars. Since there is no such thing as a Strategic Petroleum Reserve for batteries, the United States must enter this new era better prepared by diversifying its access to battery material and boosting domestic manufacturing expertise. Because dependence on China is not an option.

©2021 St. Louis Post-Dispatch



The failure at Glasgow and what needs to happen next

By PETER KALMUS
Los Angeles Times

Peter Kalmus is a climate scientist and the author of Being the Change: Live Well and Spark a Climate Revolution. @ ClimateHuman

The one thing the climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, made clear is that human society remains in business-as-usual mode, with no meaningful curb on fossil fuel use. The soft pledges made at COP26 might have been acceptable decades ago, but not now.

The world needs to shift into climate emergency mode, and it needs to happen this year. To use a science metaphor, what we need is a phase transition—as when a saturated liquid crystallizes—in the social norms that translate into collective decisions. Incrementalism can no longer save us.

That so little emerged from COP26 despite the shocking climate events of this past summer—the heat dome in the Pacific Northwest, people drowning to death in basement apartments in New York, emerging climate famine in Madagascar, to name just a few—should be a catalyst for action by the global climate movement and the public at large.

The results of COP26 was really no surprise, given that the single biggest delegation present was the fossil fuel industry itself. In the three decades of U.N. climate meetings, beginning with the Earth Summit in 1992, the buildup of fossil fuel carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has roughly doubled and our peril has vastly increased. Yet no plan has emerged to stop the terrifying and irreversible destruction of Earth's life support systems.

Clearly, neither science, nor intensifying climate disaster, nor the many remarkably polite actions of activists have thus far moved world leaders—not even on the point of ending fossil fuel subsidies. Given the stakes, what do we do as citizens?

The magnitude of this failure should be seen in the context of the speed, intensity and irreversibility of climate and ecological breakdown. For me, as a climate scientist, watching COP26 conclude without commitments to end carbon dioxide emissions was like watching a group of firefighters standing around squabbling in front of burning houses with children inside. Turn on the hoses! Save the children trapped inside! The houses in question? They are yours and mine.

First, consider the speed of the climate unraveling. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change tells us that it is likely still physically possible (if not politically possible) to keep global heating under 1.5 degrees Celsius compared with preindustrial levels.

However, in each second ticking by, humanity dumps over 1,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, where it accumulates. This amounts to over 40 billion tonnes per year. According to IPCC estimates, humanity now has about 200 billion tonnes of additional "carbon budget" left for a 66% chance of staying below 1.5 degrees Celsius. At current rates of human emissions, we therefore have five years before crossing this threshold is likely locked in.

Now, consider the intensity of the change we're witnessing. The public has been led to believe that 1.5 degree Celsius of global heating is a "safe" level, but it is not. Many regions in the global south are already being hammered by climate and ecological breakdown. Climate scientists were caught off guard by the catastrophes of this summer; with current global warming at about 1.2 degrees Celsius, things are already quite a bit worse than we expected.

Finally, there's the issue of irreversibility. Unfortunately, where climate is concerned, what's done is done. Global heating cannot be reversed on human time scales; it can only be halted. That carbon building up in our atmosphere now? Much of it will still be there in the year 3000. Dozens of irreversible Earth system tipping points, such as the loss of the Amazon rainforest and a shift in global ocean circulations, loom darkly somewhere in the near future.

One good thing to come out of COP26 was the decision to revisit emissions reductions again in a year's time (as opposed to five years in the Paris agreement). This is the year for society to finally have its phase transition into emergency mode. Politely asking the ruling class to stop destroying the Earth hasn't worked. The movement must now bring in even more people, diversify its tactics, and force world leaders to take urgent action and rapidly ramp down the fossil fuel industry.

Unless COP26's failure is recognized as failure, there is no way to learn from it. Allowing global leaders to feel that what happened in Glasgow was acceptable—and spinning it as some sort of success—would be a disastrous mistake. It would give them further license to pander to the fossil fuel industry and fail again next year. At this late stage, until society transitions to emergency mode we will face ever greater consequences.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

US Army and the Marianas Islands: A Stryker near you

RICK'S COLUMN

By RICK PEREZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs *at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.*

U.S. Army Stryker vehicles made their way to Guam recently as part of an Army and Air Force operation to move equipment and people across the Pacific Ocean in response to hypothetical war situations that could flare up in the western Pacific region and beyond.

The Guam media showed pictures of fellow Chamorros who are assigned to the specific Army Stryker unit arriving in Guam. The governor and locally stationed military leaders were there to meet the Army commander in charge of this operation upon his arrival at the airport.

One reason the Army is coming to Guam is to figure out how quickly it can move wheeled vehicle resources across vast distances that have the necessary features and components to oversee, direct, and control land-based tactical operations. This specific operation, like other military operations, is prohibitively expensive, but in many ways needed.

What is a Stryker?

A Stryker is a wheeled military combat vehicle that supports short-term ground tactical operations for the U.S. Army. The wheeled componentry of the Stryker makes it more able to move in and around a variety of terrain, unlike heavier, tracked vehicle weapons of war, such as tanks. The Stryker is an asset intended to transport and support Army infantry soldiers in ways that enable these people to then leave the vehicle and proceed forward and closer to their designated military land objective(s).

Stryker vehicles are built and configured differently based on what they are intended to achieve in a real-time land war. Some are built to carry mortars, some are built to detect local area contamination caused by nuclear, chemical, or biological substances, some are built to act as onsite tactical command centers directing operations, while other Strykers are built to move injured soldiers away from the battlefield.

Strykers are used by the United States Army, the United States Air Force, and other militaries found throughout the world.

What value do Strykers add when it comes to preparing for war in the western Pacific and Asiatic regions?

The answer may be "not much."

One problem with the Stryker vehicles is that they are not properly equipped to directly engage in a fight with heavier kinds of land warfighting machines such as tanks, which have more destructive weapons able to destroy Stryker vehicles.

Strykers, however, tend to be somewhat effective at protecting military bases or used to transport people and resources over terrain that is not wide open such as denser urban settings. Yet in a region of the world where water and ocean define how wars are to be fought and won decisively, having large inventories of land based wheeled vehicles may have limited, or very limited warfighting utility and value.

Strykers based out of Washington state

The folks coming from Washington state to Guam are part of brigade combat team formations which make up the U.S. Army's I Corps, which sizes up to around 100,000 soldiers. The word "brigade" is a pillar term used to describe elements of the United States Army. Each Army brigade has about 4,000 people and the Army has almost 90 brigades across its entire warfighting organization worldwide. There are almost 10 brigades Army wide that are organized around Stryker vehicles as main warfighting assets. These entities are referred to as Stryker Brigade Combat Teams.

Because of money issues, and heavy wear and tear associated with use during war over the past two decades, Strykers are now being reconstituted and repackaged to meet so-called readiness mission sets to support U.S. Army warfighting objectives worldwide.

The Army has had many challenges with how to best use these medium sized vehicles and continues to fight an uphill battle on how to optimize usage of these multimillion-dollar assets.

Where Strykers may be headed—the Philippines

Strykers may end up being brought to the Republic of the Philippines and used in the Philippines on a recurring basis because the United States and the Philippines recently resumed talks on base construction facility matters for American military force use and operations in the country.

This ongoing development is founded on military cooperation agreements between the Philippines and the United States concluded over the past decade. Currently efforts are being made to best figure out how to store and place a variety of weapons and supplies in the Philippines in anticipation of America having a larger renewed presence in the Philippines concentrated in five separate locations.

People remain the most important resource that the US Army can ever have

Beyond Stryker vehicles and the unique challenges facing this wheeled vehicle community, what remains most important are the sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, fathers, and uncles that have served and continue to serve in the U.S. Army worldwide. Thousands of Chamorros and Pacific Islanders have worn the uniform of the American Army, and many have distinguished themselves in a variety of ways and forms.

As the Pentagon reviews, restarts, and at times fumbles Army resources and programs, it is in our collective core interest to remember that the Army has taken on a tremendous role in fighting America's wars both past and present. Those serving in the Army and specifically those serving in Stryker Brigades must never be forgotten for what they do.

The Ballad of Kyle Rittenhouse*

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

A shooter on dark city streets
17 on the scene with an AR-15
shoots three people he meets
why did he bring a gun that day?
use it on others and walk away
leaving a bloody deadly scene
Kyle answered? about the gun
as if he thought it a toy for fun
"I thought it was cool."

When he was 17 he bought an AR-15
and took that high-tech gun downtown
subsequently mowed three people down
he says out of self-defense and fear
found not guilty after turning eighteen
cried like a baby twice during the trial
he had been successful for two years
families of the dead men did not smile
they continue lifelong sorrow and tears.

**Teen shooter found not guilty in Kenosha, Wisconsin trial*

Americans think the economy is bad because it actually is

By RAMESH PONNURU
Bloomberg Opinion

Ramesh Ponnuru is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He is a senior editor at* National Review *and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.*

Commentators friendly to the president couldn't understand it. The economy was expanding. Unemployment was falling. But the public was unhappy about the economy and the president's popularity kept slipping.

That's the way things looked in 2006 to a lot of Republicans, and they concluded that the problem was that the "Bush boom" was "the greatest story never told."

Now the bafflement has switched parties. Paul Krugman wrote in the New York Times that "the economy has been booming this year" but that gloomy news coverage has affected people's mood about it. Neil Irwin, in the same newspaper, called it a "great contradiction" of today's economy: "Americans are, by many measures, in a better financial position than they have been in many years. They also believe the economy is in terrible shape." Economists may think inflation produces both winners and losers, he continued, but most people aren't seeing it that way.

If this is really a puzzle, it's a frequently recurring one. It happened during Barack Obama's presidency, too. In 2014, a large majority of Americans thought the economy was in recession—a view that reporters pointed out was "flat-out wrong."

Americans have, in fact, been pessimistic about the economy for most of the last two decades. Gallup's "Economic Confidence Index" went negative after the dot-com boom went bust in 2000, and did not register sustained positive readings until the pre-pandemic part of President Donald Trump's administration.

It might, then, be more instructive to examine what our last two periods of widespread happiness about the economy—throughout 1998 to 2000, and from mid-2018 to early 2020—had in common. Both were times when the standard of living for most people was rising, and had been rising for a while.

Those conditions weren't present in 2006 or 2014, even though the economy was growing and unemployment falling. Households in the middle of the income-distribution scale made less in 2014 than they did in 2000, after adjusting for inflation. More of the years in between saw declines than gains. Americans had not seen such a prolonged period of disappointment since this data series began in 1953. The public's unhappiness was not irrational.

It's not irrational now, either. Income fell in 2020 as the pandemic hit. Even if living standards were rising again, positive trends would have to continue before people began to register satisfaction. But living standards aren't yet rising, anyway.

Wages and benefits have been moving up smartly, but only in nominal terms. As the economics researchers Jason Furman and Wilson Powell III pointed out in an analysis for the Petersen Institute, total compensation is 0.6% below its December 2019 level after adjusting for inflation. Irwin wrote that economists see rising wages and rising prices as "two sides of the same coin." For most people, though, the net effect in today's economy is that the coins they are getting don't go as far.

It stands to reason that changes in the real value of wages would have a bigger effect on public sentiment than changes in the unemployment rate. The number of people paying more at the pump and the grocery store is much larger than the number of people who have gotten new jobs.

One complication in this story is that people's financial conditions have improved, thanks to the extensive transfer payments that the federal government implemented during the pandemic. It may be, though, that people don't see those transfers as substitutes for a continuing stream of income that they feel they are earning.

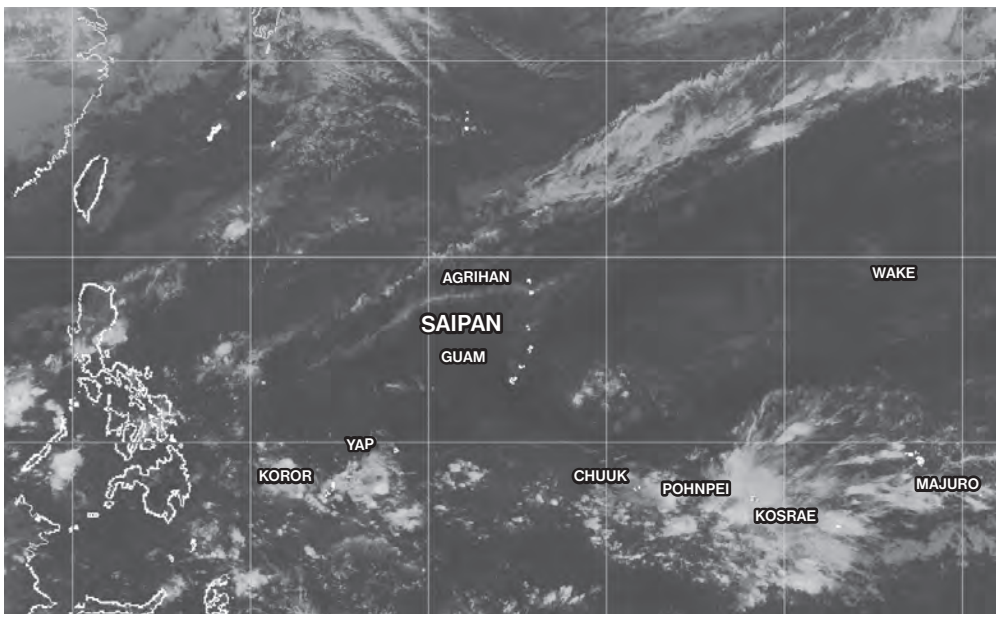
The simplest explanation for why the public thinks it's a bad economy is that, for most people, it's a bad economy. We don't need to come up with a theory about the effects of modern partisanship on views of the business cycle, any more than we needed such a theory in 2006 or 2014. We need only consult the great democratic maxim: The foot knows best where the shoe pinches.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
85° 77°	86° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:40 AM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Clear skies along with trade winds of 10 to 20 mph are occurring across the Mariana islands. Altimetry and the Ipan buoy show seas between 4 and 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Tuesday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Wednesday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Thursday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Friday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:31 AM	7:54 PM
Tuesday	-	9:22 AM	8:44 PM
Wednesday	-	10:12 AM	9:37 PM
Thursday	-	10:59 AM	10:30 PM
Friday	-	11:44 AM	11:23 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Cloudy	66° / 57°
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 23°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°
London	Cloudy	57° / 54°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	84° / 61°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	90° / 63°
Miami	Thunderstorms	80° / 69°
New York	Sunny	59° / 50°
Osaka	Rain	61° / 50°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	52° / 43°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	57° / 36°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	63° / 48°
Salem	Cloudy	64° / 48°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	68° / 54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	52° / 25°
Tokyo	Showers	55° / 46°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	60° / 47°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
3:05 AM	Low Tide	-0.36
10:22 AM	High Tide	1.64
3:47 PM	Low Tide	1.13
8:09 PM	High Tide	1.53

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4, 5
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Tickets for MCS *The Sound of Music* now on sale at MCS

» Production caps Theatre Club's 25th anniversary celebration

To conclude the yearlong celebration of its 25th anniversary, Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club will present the classic Christmas musical *The Sound of Music* on Dec. 3 and 4 (Friday and Saturday), at Saipan World Resort.

The show is directed by Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero with live music from Mount Carmel School's Concert Band conducted by Julian Greening and vocal direction by Jener Pineda and Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero.

For Dr. Deleon Guerrero, producing the show is a dream come true. "So many of our elders have fond memories of the movie, and, surprisingly, many younger audiences have also fallen in love with the show, " he said. "That is why I have always wanted to bring this show to life for our community, especially during these trying times. It's a chance to bring the nostalgic joy of Christmas, family, and music to our island."

Earning five Tony Awards and five Oscars, *The Sound of Music* was the final collaboration between the theatrical powerhouse duo, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. The story is based on the memoir of Maria Augusta Trapp and follows an ebullient postulate who serves as governess to the seven children of the imperious Captain von Trapp, bringing music and joy to the household. But as the forces of Nazism take hold of Austria, Maria and the entire von Trapp family must make a moral decision.

Launched in 1996, the MCS Theatre Club celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, commemorating over 50 theatrical and cinematic productions, including several Disney musicals, numerous Shakespeare plays, and a number of original productions. The club started this year's celebration in February with the sold-out premiere of the latest entry in its award-winning *We Drank Our Tears* series, the *Stories of Visitacion, Henry, and Dave* at American Memorial Park. The club continued the celebration in April with William Shakespeare's *As You Like It* and in May with the feature film *Zero2Hero*, a follow-up to 2011's cult hit, *Zero to Hero*.

The Sound of Music, with music by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse, as suggested by "The Trapp Family Singers" by Maria Augusta Trapp, is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization. www.concordtheatricals.com.

The Sound of Music will be presented at Saipan World Resort on Dec. 3 and 4 with doors opening at 6:30pm. Tickets are $25 for front row premium seats, $10 for preferred seating, and $5 for general admission. Tickets can be purchased at the school's Business Office. To comply with COVID-19 Mitigation Guidelines, tickets are limited and are available only on a first-come, first-served basis.

This production is made possible by support from the CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the CNMI Council for Arts and Culture with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

Power outage on Wednesday

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021, from 5am to 7am affecting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the Northern Marianas Retirement Fund Building, Office of the Governor, Legislature, DFEMS Training Building, Capital Hill homesteads, Talafofo, I-Denni, As Teo, northern side of Papago and Kagman 1, 2, 3 and 4.

This will allow CUC to perform a power distribution system upgrade in the Capitol Hill area along Isa Drive.

No water well(s) or wastewater facility will be affected. ***(PR)***

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE WITHDRAWAL AND DISSOLUTION

Please take notice that Bestow Life Insurance Company (f/k/a Centurion Life Insurance Company) intends to file an application for withdrawal of its Certificate of Authority with the Insurance Section of the CNMI Department of Commerce and for a Certificate of Withdrawal from the CNMI Registrar of Corporations anytime after this notice is made.

Anyone with a claim against Bestow Life Insurance Company is requested to submit it in accordance with the following:
1. The claim shall be made in writing and shall state the name of the claimant, the amount of the claim, the factual basis for the claim, and the name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number of the person who may be contacted by the corporation with respect to the claim.
2. The claim may be sent to: legal@bestow.com
3. A claim against Bestow Life Insurance Company will be barred unless a processing to enforce the claim is commenced within five years after the publication of the notice.

BESTOW LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

11/08/2021
This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after November 23, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project Activity/Type:
Beach Road Repair and Improvement from Monsignor Guerrero Road Intersection to Micro Beach Road/AMP Route 33 Phase III and Phase IV Project.

The proposed road improvement and drainage project is located from Atkins Kroll Toyota or Monsignor Guerrero Road intersection to Micro Beach Road/American Memorial Park (AMP) located on the island of Saipan from San Jose Village to Garapan Village. The project is essentially a resurfacing project. The project involves removing existing asphalt pavement, evaluate the condition of existing base coarse. If the base coarse is structurally sound, it will be shaved (graded), compacted and asphalt paved. The timeline for the project's construction phase is 8 months. To further streamline traffic flow and lessen congestion there is an ongoing project for installation of traffic light on Quartermaster intersection. This project benefits the entire Saipan community, especially for residents and businesses that reside and operate near the road. The safe roads will minimize accidents; allows for smoother and reliable commutes between north and south of the island and other critical facilities such as the island's main hospital.

Purpose:
The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) recognizes the requirements provided under 83 FR 40314 but firmly believes that the eligible activities under CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program are permissible and thereby asserts that the Department of Public Works (DPW) is an essential component that support low-income to low-moderate income families who will live in reconstructed/rehabilitate/newly constructed homes. The low-income to low-moderate income families use this stretch of road. Consequently, NMHC finds an immediate urgency to fund DPW's unmet public infrastructure needs; specifically, this road improvement project and for the ensuing reasons.

Location:
Beach Road from Monsignor Guerrero Road Intersection to Micro Beach Road/AMP, Saipan MP 96950

Total Project Cost:
$10,000,000.00 of CDBG-DR funds is allocated to this project combined with Federal Highway funds in the amount of $26,603,695.00 (Federal Highway funds is allocated to road improvements from the Pakpak Beach to As-Perdido Intersection/As-Perdido Intersection to AK Toyota). Total Project Cost: $36,603,695.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipanamined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in **Garapan**, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp. All comments received by **November 23, 2021, 4:00 p.m.,** will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov ; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-003

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BUCKET TRUCKS AND TRUCK CRANE

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of six bucket trucks and one 30ton truck crane for the CUC Power Distribution in Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the United states Department of the Interior (USDOIA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-22-003, Supply and Delivery of Bucket Trucks and Truck Crane)"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 6, 2021** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on November 12, 2021**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee Lieto, CUC Power Division Manager via email lee.lieto@cucgov.org, and Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Division Engineer at email adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-007

MANNED SECURITY GUARD SERVICES FOR CUC FACILITIES ON SAIPAN

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive bids from qualified firms to provide Manned Security Guard Services for various sites at CUC, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of $200,000.00. The Contractor shall agree to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Proponents shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Proponents shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire Bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-22-007*, Security Guard Services", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on November 29, 2021**. Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on November 24 , 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, CUC Power Generation Manager at email richard.cano@cucgov.org and John Mafnas, CUC Contracts officer via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Technician, Senior at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-22-004

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ENGINE LUBE OILS FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of engine lubricating oils for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan and Rota.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in via email to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-22-004, Supply & Delivery of Engine Lube Oils for Power Generation"* to the **CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building**, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 24, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 16, 2021**, to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, Power Generation Manager via email, richard.cano@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-22-006

Fiber Optic Internet Connectivity for CUC's Communications & Data Storage Network

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms for the installation of a Fiber Optic Internet Connectivity for CUC's Communications & Data Storage Network in CUC Saipan, CUC Tinian and CUC Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-22-006: Fiber Optic Internet Connectivity for CUC's Communications & Data Storage Network"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. on November 26, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 18, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email, manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Patrick Reyes, CUC IT Analyst at patrick.reyes@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

CNMI is awarded $672K so it could hire more cops

» Justice Department announces $139M for law enforcement hiring to advance community policing

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of Justice announced last week more than $139 million in grant funding through the department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services' COPS Hiring Program, including more than half-a-million dollars for the CNMI Department of Public Safety.

The awards provide direct funding to 183 law enforcement agencies across the nation, allowing those agencies to hire 1,066 additional full-time law enforcement professionals. Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands were awarded funding totaling $1,451,527.

"We are committed to providing police departments with the resources needed to help ensure community safety and build community trust," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. "The grants we are announcing [Friday] will enable law enforcement agencies across the country to hire more than 1,000 additional officers to support vitally important community oriented policing programs."

"Our office supports the efforts of Guam and CNMI law enforcement toward effective policing," said U.S. Attorney Shawn N. Anderson. "The COPS Hiring Program will have a significant impact in our districts. We look forward to promoting additional partnerships as these opportunities arise."

The following districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands received awards:

- Guam Police Department: $778,800
- Department of Public Safety: $672,727

CHP is a competitive award program intended to reduce crime and advance public safety through community policing. CHP provides funds directly to law enforcement agencies to hire new or rehire additional career law enforcement officers, thereby increasing their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts. Of the 183 agencies awarded grants Friday, approximately half will use the funding to focus on building legitimacy and trust between law enforcement and communities; 41 agencies will seek to address high rates of gun violence; 21 will focus on other areas of violence; and 19 will focus CHP resources on combating hate and domestic extremism or supporting police-based responses to persons in crisis. The complete list of awards can be found here.

Since its creation in 1994, COPS has invested more than $14 billion to advance community policing, including grants awarded to more than 13,000 state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies to fund the hiring and redeployment of more than 135,000 officers. CHP, COPS' flagship program, continues to be in demand today: In fiscal year 2021, COPS received 590 applications requesting nearly 3,000 law enforcement positions. For fiscal year 2022, President Joe Biden has requested $537 million for CHP, an increase of $300 million.

To learn more about CHP, visit https://cops.usdoj.gov/chp. For additional information about the COPS Office, visit www.cops.usdoj.gov.

The COPS Office is the federal component of the Department of Justice responsible for advancing community policing nationwide. The only Department of Justice agency with policing in its name, the COPS Office was established in 1994 and has been the cornerstone of the nation's crime fighting strategy with grants, a variety of knowledge resource products, and training and technical assistance. Through the years, the COPS Office has become the go-to organization for law enforcement agencies across the country and continues to listen to the field and provide the resources that are needed to reduce crime and build trust between law enforcement and the communities served. ***(PR)***

UOG, Guam Museum to host virtual tour for older adults and those with dementia

The University of Guam School of Health's Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program and the Guam Museum are collaborating to offer part four of a virtual tour series specially designed for families with older adults and persons with dementia who might not be able to visit the museum in person.

Part four of the tour—taking place from 6pm to 8pm on Wednesday and again from 10am to noon on Saturday—will focus on the museum's fifth gallery, "Ti Geran Måmi," which translates into "A War Not of Our Making." The exhibit depicts the experiences of the people of Guam under the Japanese occupation during World War II from 1941 to 1944.

Guam Museum curator Michael Lujan Bevacqua, who holds a doctorate in ethnic studies and specializes in CHamoru history, language, and culture, will be conducting the virtual tour.

The virtual tour is part of G/M GWEP's online support groups for family caregivers of persons with dementia. The tour is meant to provide a stimulating and meaningful experience for participants to enjoy from the comfort and safety of their homes.

How to participate

To attend the Guam Museum virtual tour, use the following Zoom links:

- Wednesday, Nov. 24 (6pm-8pm): https://zoom.us/j/92072878067
- Saturday, Nov. 27 (10am-noon): https://zoom.us/j/91243370958

For more information, contact Iain Twaddle or Nikolas Gutierrez at (671) 735-2883 or isa.tgss@triton.uog.edu or Rhoda Orallo at (671) 735-3277 or nfcspmgr@teleguam.net.

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of an award totaling $757,208 with zero percentage financed with non-governmental sources. ***(PR)***

CHCC to enforce safer hospital patient visitation policy

To ensure safer visitation rights for the patients of the Commonwealth Health Center, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., which runs the hospital, is enforcing a temporary visitation policy effective immediately.

All visitors intending to stay with a hospitalized patient must show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or receive a negative COVID-19 test before they are allowed to stay with the patient. Only one visitor per patient will be allowed at a time. Unvaccinated visitors will be tested in the isolation room near the main entrance prior to entering CHC wards. All visitors who have symptoms of COVID-19 may also undergo further screening via COVID-19 testing prior to entering any CHC ward. No individuals under the age of 18 are allowed to visit a patient, and individuals under the age of 18 will not be considered as caregivers.

The visiting hours are 9am-11am and 3pm to 5pm. All visitors are reminded to properly use face masks while in the facility. Hospital visiting hours must be adhered to and frequency of visits may be further limited on a case-by-case basis. If a patient has clinical reasons to be denied visitation rights (e.g., the patient is COVID-19 positive), specific policies related to the respective unit will apply.

Furthermore, there will be strict enforcement of the 3 W's (wear a mask, wash your hands, watch your distance) in patient waiting areas or common areas as much as possible (e.g., when eating in the cafeteria, a mask is not worn).

Getting vaccinated is the best protection against COVID-19. Individuals can register for vaccinations by visiting www.vaccinatecnmi.com, or calling (670) 682-7468. ***(PR)***

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Frankie K. Manalo (Name of Father)
Y.K.K
J.J.K (Name of Children)
Plaintiffs,
Vs.
Marakita Kanistus (Name of Mother)
Defendant

FCD PA CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0395

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Plaintiff whose address is P.O. Box 503704 CK Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 16th day of September, 2021.

/s/ Clerk of Court

PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from 500 Sails to construct a Cultural Maritime Training Center in Lower Base, Saipan. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties.

The Cultural Maritime Training Center construction project is located in Lower Base, Saipan, specifically, Lot No. 252 E 01, adjacent the Department of Public Lands & Natural Resources Bldg. Project information is available for review at the 500 Sails office or by contacting Tel. No. (670) 323-7245.

If you have any information regarding potential impacts on environmental resources or historic properties associated with this project, please provide it in writing to:

Rowena Defato
EDA Regional Environmental Officer
rdefato@eda.gov or call 206-220-7703

Comments must be received by the EDA Regional Environmental Officer by 5:00 p.m., December 8, 2021.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 023

Opening Date: November 12, 2021
Closing Date: November 26, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Administrative Assistant: Office Support & Logistics**
DEPARTMENT:	**Administration**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 - $22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Assists primarily in the needs of the Executive Director and must be readily available at a moment's notice to assist in any of his/her projects.
- Must be readily available to assist after a disaster (i.e., typhoon) and/or emergency that the Executive Director must address on behalf of the Corporation.
- Provides reception duties such as answering phones, typing, taking messages, photocopying, filing, referring inquiries to the appropriate resource and advises management of issues for resolution.
- Assists in gathering, assembling, updating, processing and/or distributing forms, documents, requests, invoices, mail and/or records and reviews information for completeness, accuracy and content.
- Picks up the Corporation's mail and or pouch from the U. S. Postal Service or from the airport cargo as well as customer payment receipts from the banks and distributes the documents accordingly on a daily basis.
- Collects and processes the Corporation's outgoing mail (letters, pouches and packages) and ensures all required postage and/or airway bill forms are properly completed.
- Deposits check payments received at the banks as well as performs other bank-related requests. Routes confidential and critical documents to the Board members and/or various government agencies and individuals for signature in a timely manner.
- Monitors supplies, materials and/or equipment inventory and prepares requisition for replenishment of needed supplies or required services; monitors order status, coordinates deliveries and services with vendors; and may provide pick-up or delivery of documents or items as needed.
- Ensures that conference/meeting rooms are kept tidy; including ensuring that common areas, such as the kitchen or break room, remain clean and clear throughout the day.
- Assists in corporate sponsored events.
- Must have strong attention to detail and the ability to take directions, along with previous work experience in office administration.
- Carries out any other reasonable requests made by department and/divisions at the approval of the Executive Director or his/her designee.
- Must be able to lift up to 50lbs.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma, GED or ABE Program and a minimum of one-year office work experience.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic filing and recordkeeping principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Basic inventory and supplies maintenance practices; Modern office technology. Strong interpersonal and communication skills, clerical skills, and moderate computer proficiency.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards (based on assignment); Providing customer services, Filing, organizing and maintain records and files; Preparing basic reports, correspondence and documentation; Managing time and prioritizing requests; Providing attention to detail; Proofreading documents for accuracy; Identifying errors and making corrections; Reviewing and researching account information; Maintaining confidentiality of records and information; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with co-workers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing: Valid Driver's License with appropriate class.
All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources Department located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 4:30 pm (except legal holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

JOSE F. MORENO/THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/TNS

David Pallett, 77, of Philadelphia uses an eight-pound medicine ball to work out with Jim Hart, a personal trainer who specializes in working with older adults, at Optimal Sport 1315 in Center City, Philadelphia.

It's never too late to start moving, but science is finding you may not catch up to lifelong exercisers

By STACEY BURLING
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Seventy-seven-year-old David Pallett, who began exercising seriously about four months ago, started a recent workout by donning a 15-pound vest and climbing 100 stairs—two at a time.

After that little warm-up, personal trainer Jim Hart, who specializes in working with older adults, led Pallett through an hour of exercises meant to improve strength, balance, power and metabolic health. The semi-retired lawyer gamely worked his abs while perched precariously on a 72-cm ball. Hart combined such movements as punches and lunges so that Pallett was using his arms, abs and legs all at once. That required the kind of whole-body coordination needed to avoid falls or do physically demanding work at home.

They finished at Optimal Sport 1315 in Center City with some upper-body work on weight machines set at about 45 pounds.

Pallett, a trim man with a white beard and silver hair, has increased the weights he's using by about 30% since he began these workouts. Hart thinks his client is still in the "beginning stages of his potential." It will likely be at least eight more months before Pallett plateaus.

Could he catch up to similar men who have exercised their entire lives?

Hart, 61, thinks that is sometimes possible if older exercisers work hard enough and have the right genes, but most experts say people who put off exercising until their retirement years are at a disadvantage. They enter late life — a time when strong muscles and good aerobic capacity can make the difference between independence and disability—with poorer-quality blood vessels, nerves and muscles than peers who have always been fit. New exercisers can repair much of the damage, but, probably, not all of it.

"We can't undo 20 years of terrible living," said Dan Ritchie, co-founder and president of the Functional Aging Institute, where Hart trained to work with elders.

The good news is that you don't have to catch up to the lifelong runners and gym rats to improve your health and quality of life. "You can take really unfit people at 70," Ritchie said, "and get them really fit and doing amazing things." One client started working with him at 78. Now in her late 80s, she can leg press her own body weight, and use 5- to 10-pound dumbbells.

Pallett jokes about looking like Arnold Schwarzenegger and besting his very strong 30-year-old son at arm wrestling. He would like to live longer than his mother, who made it to 97, and avoid the dementia that took his father in his early 80s. For now, he's happy that his posture is improving and that his shirts fit tighter across the chest as he's gained muscle.

A man who came late to fatherhood and loved it, Pallett listened when his son encouraged him to exercise. "I told him I could beat him," Pallett said. "I know I'll never beat him. I'm too old, and he's too young. He wanted me to get healthy because he didn't want me to die."

As Melissa Markofski, an exercise physiologist and aging expert at the University of Houston, says, "Comparison is the root of unhappiness."

But let's start by doing it anyway.

Physical activity is one of the most important things people can do to increase the number of healthy years in their lifespan, and experts say it's better to start young.

"I'm a huge fan of exercise, because, without question, it's the most effective means that we have today to counter the fundamental biology of aging," said Nathan LeBrasseur, a physiologist and physical therapist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., who studies muscle growth and metabolism.

Aging, he said, is the "accumulation of molecular and cellular damage." It drives dysfunction and disease. Exercise can slow it down. Obesity, which often accompanies low activity, accelerates it.

People reach their physical peak about age 30, said Steven Austad, chair of biology at the University of Alabama-Birmingham and senior scientific director of the American Federation for Aging Research.

We lose about 30% of our muscle mass and 50% of strength in later life. Exercisers sustain higher levels of mass longer, so they start their decline from a higher point than sedentary peers. Although you can still add muscle in your 80s and 90s, it becomes much harder, researchers said.

"You want to walk into your 80s with as much muscle mass as possible," said Kevin Murach, an exercise physiologist and muscle biologist at the University of Arkansas. His recent research — in mice — suggests that people who exercise in early life but take a long break might build muscle more quickly if they start again than never-exercisers. LeBrasseur said that, for most people, the ability to grow bigger or stronger muscles begins declining in their 40s.

Increasing numbers of older Americans have exercised for decades thanks to fitness trends when they were younger, researchers said. That has given physiologists a group of high achievers to compare with lifelong couch potatoes. The exercisers are clearly stronger and healthier. Scott Trappe, director of the Human Performance Laboratory at Ball State University, said that longtime exercisers have a bigger physiologic reserve that helps them bounce back from illness or injuries in their retirement years. "Their tank is bigger," he said.

Lifelong exercisers in their 70s have cardiovascular capacities that are physiologically similar to those of recreationally active people 30 years younger. And, he said, the muscles of the lifelong exercisers have enzymes involved with aerobic metabolism that are the same as exercisers in their 20s.

There's also evidence that people who change their habits in later life reap significant benefits, but much less data on the upper limits of achievement for, say, someone who retires at 65 and decides to devote hours of newly available time to aerobic and weight-bearing exercise.

Even scientists love to point to rare elder super-achievers who started exercising late: a 100-year-old bicycle racer who was able to improve his aerobic capacity or Charles Eugster, who started a fitness plan at 85 and then won rowing and bodybuilding competitions. Hurofumi Tanaka, an exercise physiologist at the University of Texas-Austin, studies masters athletes, who often have not been lifelong exercisers. Many people who were elite athletes when young no longer compete in their 50s and 60s, he said.

But most experts said there's reason to think you probably won't be a masters champion if you do your first exercising in your 60s or 70s because you're starting so far behind. It's easier to maintain strength and fitness than it is to increase it, said Thomas Buford, director of the University of Alabama-Birmingham's Center for Exercise Medicine. "Most of what we're talking about is preventing decline," he said.

It is true that some fitness fanatics enter their retirement years with bad knees and ACLs or pain from traumatic injuries that limit their activity. Sedentary people who are not obese could have healthier joints and fewer injuries. But the joints of non-exercisers could also have suffered from the lack of strong supportive muscles and from obesity. Sedentary people have more back trouble and more cardiovascular problems that can limit capacity. They are more likely to have fat deposits in their muscles that make contractions less effective.

Whether we exercise or not, we lose muscle mass over time. You don't have to have big muscles to be strong, but experts said mass correlates with strength. There's a limit to how much you can bulk up an old muscle, but you can make it stronger.

The composition of muscle changes, with fewer and shorter fibers. In heavier, more sedentary people, fat deposits can make muscle look like marbled steak. Trappe said the muscle cells become less able to process energy. Paul Coen, an exercise physiologist for AdventHealth in Orlando, said the ability to use protein from food for muscle building is blunted in aging bodies. Older people also have fewer mitochondria, which facilitate muscle contractions.

All of these problems are worse in sedentary people. Some can be improved with exercise.

LeBrasseur said people who study muscles have long been consumed with age-related decline in muscle mass, but are starting to look at other factors. "Have we oversold the importance of building mass as opposed to building muscle quality?" he wonders.

By that, he means that muscles don't operate independently. They need a good blood supply and well-connected nerves that tell them when to contract and relax. These things decline with age, too, and they decline more in people who haven't exercised.

A healthy brain is key to strong muscles because that's where the signals that control muscles start, said Brian Clark, an Ohio University exercise physiologist who directs the Ohio Musculoskeletal and Neurological Institute. "The muscles are the puppets of the nervous system," he said. Our brains typically atrophy with age and that affects parts that control motor function as well as thinking. This can make habitual motions like walking more challenging, a reason that older people find it harder to walk while checking their phones than their grandchildren do. Nerves are also dying, and they become less connected.

The best activity for your brain is aerobic exercise. However, weight-lifting can slowly build better connections between nerves and muscles. In fact, much of the improvement that sedentary people experience during the first eight weeks of lifting weights is due to this improved neuromuscular coordination, LeBrasseur said.

JOSE F. MORENO/THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/TNS

David Pallett, 77, works out on the steps of Optimal Sport gym during a session with personal trainer Jim Hart.

Life & Style

Rare first printing of US Constitution sells for record $43M

NEW YORK (AP)—A rare first printing of the U.S. Constitution sold at Sotheby's in New York for $43.2 million, a record price for a document or book sold at auction.

The buyer, hedge fund manager Kenneth Griffin, will loan the document to the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas, for public exhibition, Sotheby's announced Friday.

Griffin, the founder and CEO of multinational hedge fund Citadel, outbid a group of 17,000 cryptocurrency enthusiasts from around the world who crowdfunded to buy it over the last week.

"The U.S. Constitution is a sacred document that enshrines the rights of every American and all those who aspire to be," Griffin said in a statement. "That is why I intend to ensure that this copy of our Constitution will be available for all Americans and visitors to view and appreciate in our museums and other public spaces."

Crystal Bridges board chairperson Olivia Walton said, "We are honored to exhibit one of the most important documents in our nation's history from our location in the heartland of America."

The museum opened in 2011 and was founded by Alice Walton, the daughter of Walmart founder Sam Walton.

The document that Griffin purchased at Thursday night's auction was one of 13 known copies of the first printing of the Constitution and one of only two in private hands.

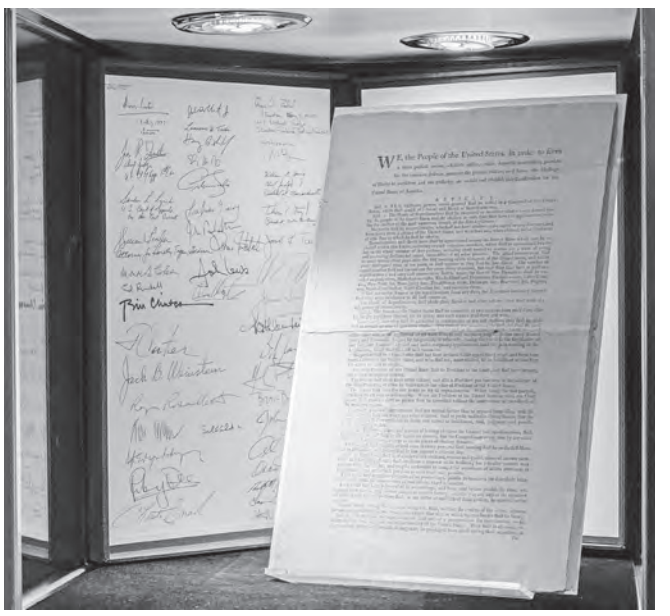
This printing of the Constitution was last sold in 1988, when real estate developer and collector S. Howard Goldman bought it at auction for $165,000.

Proceeds from Thursday's sale will benefit a foundation established by Goldman's widow, Dorothy Tapper Goldman, to further the understanding of constitutional principles.

"Tonight's sale of this exceptionally rare and important printing of the Constitution was a monumental and historic occasion," Selby Kiffer, Sotheby's senior international specialist for books and manuscripts, said in a statement.

Kiffer said the auction result reflects how relevant the Constitution remains, "not only in America but for global democracy."

The underbidder was ConstitutionDAO, which announced its plan to raise millions of dollars to buy the Constitution on Twitter on Nov. 12. DAO stands for decentralized autonomous organization, a type of community-run business that operates on the blockchain.



A first printing of the United States Constitution is displayed at Sotheby's auction house during a press preview on Nov. 5, 2021, in New York. The rare copy has sold Thursday, Nov. 18, for a record $43.2 million at Sotheby's to an anonymous buyer who outbid a group of crypocurrency investors. AP PHOTO/MARY ALTAFFER, FILE

ConstitutionDAO tweeted Thursday night, "We showed the world what crypto and web3, onboarding thousands of people in the process, including museum curators and art directors who are now excited to keep learning."

The group added, "We were the first DAO Sothebys has ever worked with, but we're sure we won't be the last one."

The previous auction record for a book or manuscript was set in 1994 when Bill Gates purchased the Codex Leicester by Leonardo da Vinci at Christie's for $30.8 million.

Duchess of Sussex gets goofy on Ellen DeGeneres' talk show

NEW YORK (AP)—It was the Meghan hour Thursday on the talk show of her friend, Ellen DeGeneres, as the Duchess of Sussex helped welcome a special guest, hit the studio lot to prank vendors and said she'll be cooking Thanksgiving dinner herself.

Meghan

"I love to cook. We'll be home and just sort of relax and settle in," Meghan said of her second Thanksgiving in California with Prince Harry and, now, their two kids.

Meghan and DeGeneres, who met at a pet store more than a decade ago, chatted about Halloween (Archie was a dinosaur and baby Lili a skunk), and more serious issues like Meghan's work to push for federal paid family leave. And she said Harry has taken nicely to the California lifestyle in Montecito, where Ellen is one of their neighbors.

"He loves it," Meghan said. "We're just happy."

Meghan got Ellen-style goofy when she donned an earpiece so Ellen could tell her what to say and do as she perused the wares of three vendors on the studio lot. Meghan mewed in cat ears, devoured hot sauce on crackers like a chipmunk and held a huge crystal to her face—all after a pretend assistant told the trio of sellers to treat her just like everybody else. They could barely keep from laughing.

12 to stand trial for Kardashian West jewel heist in Paris

PARIS (AP)—Twelve people will stand trial in Paris over a $10 million jewelry heist targeting Kim Kardashian West in 2016, authorities said Friday.

The reality TV star said she was tied up at gunpoint and locked in a bathroom after armed robbers forced their way into her rented Paris apartment during fashion week.

After five years of investigation, investigating judges have ordered the case sent to trial, a judicial official said Friday. The 12 suspects face a range of charges related to the theft. No trial date has been set, and the official would not provide further details.

West

A representative for Kardashian West declined comment.

Several suspects have been released from jail pending trial for health reasons, including 68-year-old Yunice Abbas, one of the five men accused of carrying out the heist itself, who published a book about it last year.

The alleged mastermind, Aomar Ait Khedache, wrote Kardashian West an apology letter from his prison cell, saying he regrets his actions and realizes the psychological damage he caused. At the time, a spokeswoman for Kardashian West said she was badly shaken but physically unharmed.

Sparks fly as neutral pronoun included in French dictionary

PARIS (AP)—It's a neutral pronoun that's proving anything but: A nonbinary pronoun added to an esteemed French dictionary has ignited a fierce linguistic squabble in the country.

Le Petit Robert introduced the word "iel"—an amalgamation of "il" (he) and "elle" (she)—to its online edition last month. While the term is gaining currency among young people, it is still far from being widely used, or even understood, by many French speakers.

Though at first the change went mostly unnoticed, boisterous debate broke out this week in a nation that prides itself on its human rights tradition but that also fiercely protects its cultural heritage from foreign meddling. In one camp are the traditionalists, including some political leaders, who criticize the move as a sign that France is lurching toward an American-style "woke" ideology. In the other is a new generation of citizens who embrace nonbinary as the norm.

"It is very important that dictionaries include the 'iel' pronoun in their referencing as it reflects how the use of the term is now well accepted," said Dorah Simon Claude, a 32-year-old doctoral student who identifies as "iel."

"It is," they added, "also a way of confronting the Academie Francaise that stays in its conservative corner and continues to ignore and scorn users of the French language."

Siblings operate on different schedules

DEAR ABBY: My brother and I are in our 40s. We live several states apart and visit each other a couple times a year. We are both very active but on different time schedules. I'm a morning person who has been getting up at 5 a.m. for so many years my body will not sleep past then. He's a night owl. He sleeps until 10 a.m. and expects to be doing fun activities until at least midnight.

He plans specific activities—buys us concert tickets to a 9-11 p.m. show that's an hour away, which guarantees to keep us up past midnight. He gets upset if I don't stay up late, because that means we don't get to spend as much time together or do all the fun activities we want. He won't wake up earlier because weekends/vacation days are his only chance to sleep in. (He has to get up at 8 a.m. on workdays, so he's not willing to meet in the middle.)

After our visits, I'm so exhausted it takes me a week to recover from getting only four hours of sleep while he's here, and it affects the quality of my work. Is there a rule of etiquette for guests and hosts regarding adjusting schedules to accommodate each other? Shouldn't the host choose the schedule? For instance, at his house, activities go from 10 a.m. till midnight, but at my house, we get up earlier and go to bed earlier? Or must the host accommodate the guest's preferred schedule?

SLEEPY SIS IN WISCONSIN

DEAR SIS: Houseguests are supposed to abide by the schedule of their host. What this means is your commonsense assertion that when you are at your brother's house you would stay up later, and when he's at yours he would go to bed earlier, is correct.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have worked for the same boss for nearly 40 years. He's in his mid-70s; I'm in my mid-60s. Because we've been together for so long, we're close friends. Our families are close as well.

He recently confided to me that he's concerned he may be in the early stages of Parkinson's disease. He hasn't seen a doctor yet to confirm this, but I have noticed questionable symptoms for some time. These could be explained by other things (he walks more slowly due to a recent knee replacement, etc.).

My question is: When others ask me if he's feeling OK or if he's ill, what should my response be? I will not betray his confidence, but I don't know what to say when people question his health status. I don't want to have an attitude that seems like "I know something you don't know," but I also don't want to be so vague they will continue asking questions.

He's a very dear man and people are genuinely concerned. I don't want to say anything that might cause more suspicion about his health.

UNSURE IN ARIZONA

DEAR UNSURE: Ask your boss how HE would like you to answer those questions. If he doesn't want you to reveal that he is concerned, your response should be, "I know you care about 'Harry,' but if you have questions about his health, you should be asking him—not me." And, because you are a close family friend (in addition to being a longtime employee), urge him to bring his concerns to his doctor.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

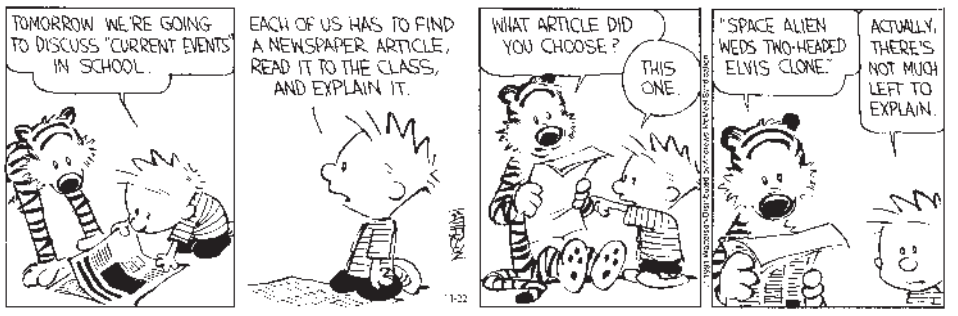
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

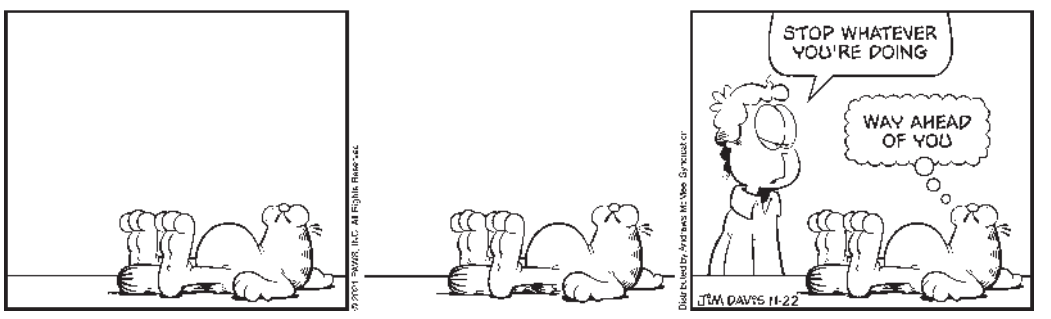
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


TOMORROW WE'RE GOING TO DISCUSS "CURRENT EVENTS" IN SCHOOL.
EACH OF US HAS TO FIND A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, READ IT TO THE CLASS, AND EXPLAIN IT.
WHAT ARTICLE DID YOU CHOOSE?
THIS ONE.
"SPACE ALIEN WEDS TWO-HEADED ELVIS CLONE."
ACTUALLY, THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT TO EXPLAIN.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

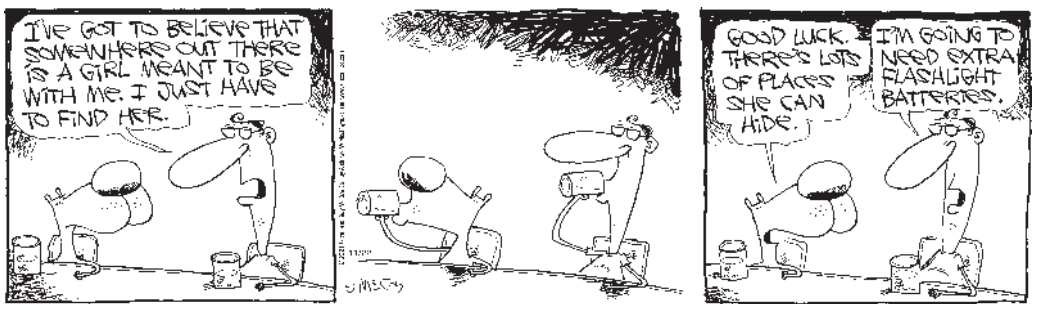


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'VE GOT TO BELIEVE THAT SOMEWHERE OUT THERE IS A GIRL MEANT TO BE WITH ME. I JUST HAVE TO FIND HER.
GOOD LUCK. THERE'S LOTS OF PLACES SHE CAN HIDE.
I'M GOING TO NEED EXTRA FLASHLIGHT BATTERIES.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

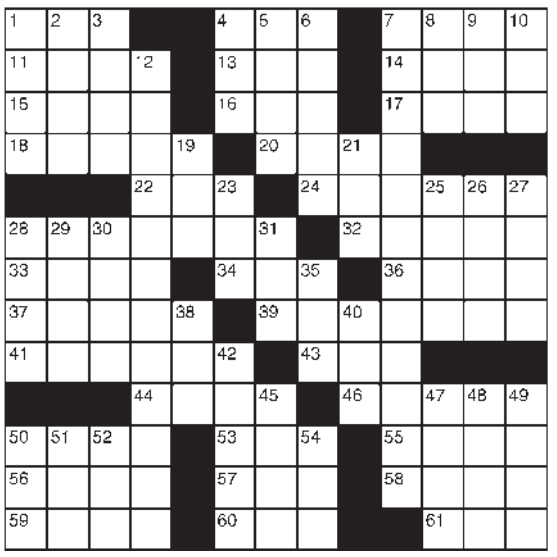
ACROSS
1 "Butter" K-pop band
4 Apt. divisions
7 Future tulip
11 Speedy steed
13 "Wham!"
14 "Got it"
15 Island near Java
16 Whitman of "Good Girls"
17 Burden
18 Type of wheat
20 Blue shade
22 Attorney's field
24 Hitchcock classic
28 Lampoons
32 Farm units
33 Screenwriter James
34 Entreat
36 Tiers
37 Readied, as a violin
39 Trinidad music
41 Having lunch
43 Some coll. degrees
44 Deposited
46 Packs away
50 Fuzzy fruit
53 Kitten's cry
55 Slightly
56 401(k) relatives
57 Goat's cry
58 Biography
59 Netting
60 Work unit
61 Hanoi holiday

DOWN
1 Ms. Streisand, to fans
2 Snare
3 Auction
4 Spinning stat
5 Castle defense
6 Use a broom
7 "Analyze This" actor
8 Mil. morale booster
9 Actress Salonga
10 Sleep site
12 Grammy-winning "Bad Guy" singer
19 Pitch
21 Red — beet
23 Entanglement
25 Cut short
26 Hacks with an axe
27 — buco
28 Fill up
29 Water, to Juan
30 Bivouac shelter
31 Moment
35 Prattle
38 "CSI" find
40 Vegas opener?
42 Greedy demand
45 Beloved
47 Final notice
48 Spouse
49 Dele undoer
50 Kipling lad
51 Hot temper
52 Existed
54 Jokester

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	A	S	I	L	■	D	R	Y	■	R	D	A
A	R	O	M	A	■	E	D	E	■	E	E	N
A	S	L	A	N	■	E	X	T	R	A	C	T
■	■	C	O	U	P	Y	■	E	T	R	E	■
S	I	A	■	E	R	E	■	A	D	A	Y	S
E	N	C	S	■	G	H	O	V	E	■	■	■
A	S	T	U	T	E	■	D	A	Y	C	L	A
■	■	■	H	A	D	A	H	■	E	V	■	L
S	W	I	F	T	■	U	A	R	■	E	N	T
E	I	N	E	■	A	S	H	I	E	R	■	■
R	E	F	R	A	C	T	■	T	R	A	Y	S
I	L	E	■	C	E	E	■	A	L	C	O	A
F	O	R	■	H	S	N	■	S	E	T	U	P

Friday's answer 11 - 22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Scarlett Johansson, 37; Mark Ruffalo, 54; Jamie Lee Curtis, 63; Steve Van Zandt, 71.

Happy Birthday: Choose to take your time. Examine your situation and the plans you want to put in motion. Stick to the rules, speak the truth, and question anything and anyone suspicious. It's essential not to let anyone meddle or lead you astray. Control your life and your future instead of relying on someone to take over. Your numbers are 8, 15, 24, 26, 32, 37, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Pace yourself. Put your time and energy into something that matters to you. Refuse to get involved in an emotional situation that is draining and stressful. A disciplined attitude will help you dismiss outside interference and assist you in focusing on achieving your objective. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Concentrate on self-improvement, not trying to change others. Set personal goals, and let others adjust at their speed. Keep your life simple and doable, and rely only on yourself. What you accomplish will broaden opportunities and raise your profile. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Emotional spending or reactions will set you back. Concentrate on doing a good job, giving your all and mastering something that will help you excel. Don't trust someone who promises the impossible. Actions speak louder than words. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Share your feelings with someone you care about, and you will find out where you stand and what possibilities are within reach. Engage in pastimes that motivate you to do something creative. Relaxing with someone you love will enhance your relationship. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Keep the peace. If you overreact or let someone upset you, it will change the dynamics of your relationship. Take a wait-and-see approach, and you'll gain insight into the motives behind someone's actions. Bide your time. Focus on self-improvement. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Use your skills, and you will find a new outlet that is lucrative and can boost your ability to get ahead. An unexpected change of plans will favor you, so don't fight the inevitable. Physical improvements will fetch compliments. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Keep your plans to a minimum and your emotions under control. Be observant and disciplined when dealing with people who tend to push you. An intelligent response will work better than letting anger take over and ruin your day or your plans. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Pay attention to details, expenditures and responsibilities. Take on what you know you can handle. Choose quality over quantity. A positive change will occur if you are attentive and loving with those who play an active role in your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Consider every angle, and confirm information you receive before you respond. Jumping into something prematurely or without validation will not turn out as planned. Trust your instincts, not what others say or do. Take responsibility to do what's right for you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Shed some light on those you love. Show affection, and let others know how you feel and how you intend to move forward. Put your energy where it counts most. Move things around at home or work to ensure efficiency and comfort. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A minimalist attitude will save you time and money. Live with what you have, and make only the necessary cost-efficient changes that encourage you to use what you have to the best of your ability. Strive for perfection and detail. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Invest time and money in yourself, your home and how you earn your living. A change of plans will turn out to be in your favor. Leave nothing to chance or unfinished, and you will surpass your expectations. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are demonstrative, enthusiastic and persistent. You are poised and thorough.

✪ ***star:*** *Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes.* ✪✪ ***stars:*** *You can accomplish, but don't rely on others.* ✪✪✪ ***stars:*** *Focus and you'll reach your goals.* ✪✪✪✪ ***stars:*** *Aim high; start new projects.* ✪✪✪✪✪ ***stars:*** *Nothing can stop you; go for gold.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		2				7		
	1	7	5		8	2	6	
8	6						4	1
	3			6			7	
			8	2	4			
	5			1			8	
4	7						2	3
	8	5	2		3	1	9	
		3				6		

Difficulty Level ★ 11/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

6	3	4	1	2	8	7	9	5
2	7	9	6	3	5	8	4	1
5	1	8	9	4	7	2	6	3
3	8	6	4	7	1	5	2	9
9	4	2	5	6	3	1	7	8
7	5	1	2	8	9	6	3	4
8	6	7	3	5	4	9	1	2
1	2	3	8	9	6	4	5	7
4	9	5	7	1	2	3	8	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/21

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

WORDS GOING EXTINCT **Solution: 8 letters**

E	F	L	E	E	B	O	A	R	D	Q	U	A	F	F
C	P	R	U	H	T	C	E	A	R	E	L	U	A	W
F	U	H	U	N	J	M	O	H	W	I	B	D	C	O
L	T	M	E	T	N	A	G	O	H	S	K	I	E	R
O	U	R	B	M	E	I	C	A	Y	N	R	S	T	R
T	P	A	G	R	E	S	T	I	C	G	A	C	I	O
S	P	T	O	V	O	R	C	N	N	A	H	O	O	M
A	E	Y	N	U	E	U	A	E	I	T	N	S	U	A
M	N	I	D	E	T	D	S	L	N	M	H	N	S	S
P	C	A	G	A	I	N	S	A	Y	T	R	A	Y	T
A	E	G	B	L	N	R	E	M	M	A	Y	A	S	E
R	E	A	L	E	E	L	U	P	A	P	R	U	V	J
L	T	A	D	A	L	L	E	S	U	O	O	R	H	C
E	P	A	W	H	E	E	D	L	E	S	H	O	A	L
Y	B	E	V	I	S	S	I	M	E	L	U	O	J	S

© 2021 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 11/22

Abate, Agrestic, Arras, Bade, Canny, Chroous, Cumbrous, Dalles, Discos, Emissive, Ephemeral, Esurient, Facetious, Flotsam, Frutescent, Fubsy, Gainsay, Hark, Hogan, Inveigh, Jacinth, Jetsam, Joule, Leeboard, Morrow, Oust, Pallid, Papule, Parley, Quaff, Read, Selenite, Shoal, Skirr, Sprent, Tuppence, Uhtceare, Varmint, Wheedle, Whom, Yammer, Yore

Last Friday's Answer: White House

Purchase **WONDERWORD** books in time for the holidays! Visit WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Tatum scores 33 points, Celtics beat Thunder, 111-105

BOSTON (AP)— Jayson Tatum scored 33 points, Dennis Schroder had 29 and the Boston Celtics beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 111-105 on Saturday night.

Al Horford added 10 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists for Boston, which won for seventh time in 10 games. Grant Williams chipped in with 14 points and Enes Kanter had 10 points and 10 boards.

Lu Dort scored 16 points for Oklahoma City, Josh Giddey had 15 points and eight rebounds, and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 14 points. The Thunder have dropped four of five.

Coming off an emotional 22-point victory over the rival Lakers a night earlier, the Celtics didn't have any letdown, charging to a double-digit lead midway into the second quarter.

"We knew it was a big game last night," Boston coach Ime Udoka said. "But it didn't matter if we came out with a dud game."

Tatum had 37 points and 11 rebounds in the win over Los Angeles on Friday.

Boston pushed a 13-point halftime lead to 68-48 on Horford's three-point play. The Thunder made a brief spurt with consecutive 3s by Giddey before the Celtics went on a 13-2 run.

They led by 16 with 6 ½ minutes left in the game before the Thunder sliced it under double digits on Jeremiah Robinson-Earl's follow shot with just under 4 minutes left.

"I feel like this shows if we start well and our on terms, it can lead to a full 48 minutes," Robinson-Earl said. "I thought tonight we just got off to a slow start."

But Oklahoma City never made a serious threat after Earl's basket, though they did get it down to four points with 10.6 seconds to play.

"We just have to keep that intensity up throughout the entire game," Williams said about a potential ''trap game."

"Tonight, I think it was just us focusing and keying on what we were doing well," he said.

Boston Celtics' Jayson Tatum (0) looks to shoot against Oklahoma City Thunder's Luguentz Dort (5) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021, in Boston. AP

Boston held a 58-45 halftime advantage behind 16 points from Tatum and 13 by Schroder.

"I think we're starting to understand the level that we have to play night in and night out," Horford said.

Wizards 103, Heat 100

In Washington, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Spencer Dinwiddie each scored 16 points and hit two 3-pointers during a crucial late stretch and the Wizards rallied to beat Miami.

Bradley Beal had 21 points to help Washington split the home-and-home series with Miami and move a half-game above the Heat in the Southeast Division standings. Miami, beat Washington 112-97 in Florida on Thursday night.

The Wizards trailed by as 16 in the third quarter and by 10 with 4:42 to play before Caldwell-Pope and Dinwiddie scored every point during a 15-2 run to give Washington a 99-96 lead with 1:43 left.

Jimmy Butler scored 29 points for the Heat.

Bucks 117, Magic 108

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 32 points and 20 rebounds and Milwaukee held off Orlando to open a two-game set.

The teams will meet again Monday night in Milwaukee.

Bobby Portis had a season-high 24 points along with 15 rebounds to help the Bucks win their third straight and improve to 9-8. They're above .500 for the first time since they were 3-2 on Oct. 27.

R.J. Hampton had 19 points off the bench for the Magic. Orlando lost for the fifth time in six games to fall to an Eastworst 4-13.

Trail Blazers 119, 76ers 111

In Portland, Ore., Damian Lillard scored a season-high 39 points to help Portland beat Philadelphia.

CJ McCollum added 18 points, Norman Powell had 17, and Jusuf Nurkic finished with 11 points and 11 rebounds. Portland improved to 8-1 at home and, at 9-8, is above .500 for the first time since Oct. 31.

Tobias Harris and Tyrese Maxey each scored 28 points for Philadelphia. Joel Embiid missed his seventh straight game after entering the NBA's COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

Hawks 115, Hornets 105

In Atlanta, Clint Capela had 20 points and 15 rebounds, Trae Young scored 19 points and Atlanta beat Charlotte.

Cam Reddish and Kevin Huerter each added 17 points, and Danilo Gallinari had 16 to help Atlanta win its fourth consecutive game. John Collins had 15 points and eight rebounds.

Miles Bridges scored 35 points for Charlotte, and LaMelo Ball had 15 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds.

Knicks 106, Rockets 99

In New York, Alec Burks scored 17 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, Evan Fournier added 19 and New York handed Houston its 14th consecutive loss,

All-Star Julius Randle added 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Immanuel Quickley had 13 points off the bench for the Knicks.

Christian Wood had 18-points and 12 rebounds for the NBA-worst Rockets. They are 1-15.

Pacers 111, Pelicans 94

In Indianapolis, Domantas Sabonis had 20 points and 10 rebounds and Indiana's starters bounced back from being benched a night earlier to beat New Orleans.

Yanked by coach Rick Carlisle in the third quarter of loss at Charlotte, Indiana's starters opened with 23 points in the first quarter for a 32-19 lead. The one change to the starting lineup was shooting guard Justin Holiday, who scored 17 points.

Jonas Valanciunas had 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Pelicans.

Timberwolves 138, Grizzlies 95

In Minneapolis, D'Angelo Russell scored 28 points, Anthony Edwards added 23 and Minnesota routed Memphis for its third straight victory.

Karl-Anthony Towns finished with 21 points in a game Minnesota led by as many as 45, its biggest lead in a game this season and the Grizzlies' largest deficit.

Desmond Bane scored 21 points for the Grizzlies. Ja Morant tied a season low with 11.

Jazz 123, Kings 105

In Sacramento, Calif., Donovan Mitchell scored 26 points, Rudy Gobert added 21 points and 14 rebounds and Utah beat Sacramento.

Richaun Holmes had 22 points and seven rebounds for Sacramento. The Kings have lost seven of eight.

NBA BRIEFS

Warriors' Curry sits out against Pistons with bruised hip

Golden State Warriors star Stephen Curry was out of the lineup against the Detroit Pistons due to a bruised hip, a night after scoring 20 of his 40 points in a fourth-quarter comeback victory at Cleveland.

The NBA-leading Warriors also were without Draymond Green on Friday night because of a bruised thigh. He had 14 assists in 29 minutes against the Cavaliers.

Golden State's Otto Porter missed the game with a foot injury, and Andre Iguodala was out for a second straight game with a sore right knee.

Playing with a bruised left hip, Curry finished 15 of 27 from the field against the Cavs and the two-time MVP increased his NBA-best scoring average to 29.5 points.

When Detroit coach Dwane Casey was asked about the Warriors sitting out, he said it should bother the Pistons. ***(AP)***

Pelicans' Louzada suspended for 25 games for drug violation

NEW ORLEANS (AP)— New Orleans Pelicans reserve small forward Didi Louzada has been suspended 25 games for violating the the NBA's performance-enhancing drug rules.

Louzada's suspension, announced by NBA spokesman Mark Broussard, began Friday when the Pelicans hosted the Los Angeles Clippers.

The 6-foot-5 Louzada, who joined the Pelicans last season, has played in just two games this season and has not scored.

"We were disappointed to learn that Didi Louzada violated the NBA-NBPA Anti-Drug Program," said Pelicans executive vice president of basketball operations David Griffin. "After speaking with Didi, we are confident that he understands the full gravity of the situation and regrets the decisions that led to the suspension.

"We fully support Didi on and off the court as he learns and grows from this experience," Griffin added.

Louzada is from Brazil and initially joined the NBA in 2019, when he was a second-round draft pick of the Atlanta Hawks.

Nuggets' Jokic sits out vs. Bulls with sprained right wrist

DENVER (AP)—The Denver Nuggets were without reigning MVP Nikola Jokic on Friday night against the Chicago Bulls because of a sprained right wrist.

Jokic appeared to hurt the wrist the night before in a home loss to Philadelphia. The Nuggets big man is averaging 26.4 points, 13.6 rebounds and 6.4 assists.

"Any time any team in this league loses a really, really good player, and you're talking about a guy that's playing at an incredible level for a long period of time, it's always a challenge," Bulls coach Billy Donovan said.

Jokic missed a win over Indiana on Nov. 10 as he served a one-game suspension for his role in a fracas with Miami's Markieff Morris.

The Nuggets were already without Jamal Murray (knee) and Michael Porter Jr. (back).

Isaiah Thomas returning to USA Basketball for qualifying

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Isaiah Thomas is putting on the red, white and blue again.

Thomas was announced Friday as an injury replacement for USA Basketball's team that will open World Cup qualifying play this month in Mexico. The two-time NBA All-Star was added to the roster, along with Justin Anderson, as replacements for DaQuan Jeffries and Frank Mason III.

Jeffries is injured and Mason was not cleared for full participation, USA Basketball said. The team begins training camp in Houston on Saturday, in advance of games in Chihuahua, Mexico, against Cuba on Nov. 28 and Mexico on Nov. 29.

Thomas—an NBA free agent with hopes of getting back into the league—last appeared on the national team in February, starting two games during qualifying for the AmeriCup. He led the team with 14 points per game in those contests, with the U.S. defeating the Bahamas and Mexico.

Anderson played in AmeriCup qualifying games in February 2020, helping the U.S. to a pair of wins.

The two games in Mexico are the first of six first-round games for the U.S. in World Cup qualifying. The Americans are also scheduled to play Puerto Rico on Feb. 24, Mexico on Feb. 27, Puerto Rico on July 1 and Cuba on July 4 in the opening qualifying round.

There are four teams in each of four qualifying groups out of the FIBA Americas region. The top three teams in each group move onto the second round of qualifying, which starts in August and runs through February 2023.

The World Cup—where teams can directly qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics—runs from Aug. 25-Sept. 10, 2023, with the final in the Philippines and other games taking place in Japan and Indonesia.

Ohtani voted AL MVP for 2-way season, Harper wins NL honor

NEW YORK (AP) — Shohei Ohtani's two-way season was so incredible, MVP voters filled out the top of their ballots only one way.

Ohtani was a unanimous winner of the American League MVP award Thursday for a hitting and pitching display not seen since Babe Ruth, and Bryce Harper earned the National League honor for the second time.

Ohtani received all 30 first-place votes and 420 points in balloting by members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

"American fans, the U.S.A. baseball, is more accepting and welcoming to the whole two-way idea compared to when I first started in Japan, so it made the transition a lot easier for me," Ohtani said through translator Ippei Mizuhara. "I'm very thankful for that."

Ohtani batted .257 with 46 homers, 100 RBIs and a .965 OPS as the Los Angeles Angels' full-time designated hitter, and went 9-2 with a 3.18 ERA in 23 pitching starts with 156 strikeouts and 44 walks in 130 1/3 innings. It was the first full season on the mound for the 27-year-old right-hander since Tommy John surgery in 2019.

He averaged 95.6 mph with his fastball, 28th in the major leagues among qualified pitchers, and had a 93.6 mph exit velocity at the plate, which ranked sixth among qualified batters, according to MLB Statcast.

"MVP is something I was shooting for," Ohtani said. "I think every player is, as long as they're playing baseball professionally."

Ohtani won AL Rookie of the Year in 2018 after leaving the Pacific League's Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters to sign with the Angels. This year he became the first two-way starter in the history of the All-Star Game, which began in 1933.

Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani is greeted in the dugout after he hit a solo home run during the first inning of a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners, Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021, in Seattle. On Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021, AP

He called that the highlight of his season.

"It was my first one and I got to play with a lot of players that I've always watched on TV," Ohtani said. "That was a great experience."

Ruth had just two seasons in which he thrived at the plate while pitching regularly. He batted .300 with 11 homers and 61 RBIs in 1918 while going 13-7 with a 2.22 ERA for Boston, then hit .322 with 29 homers and 113 RBIs in 1919 while going 9-5 with a 2.97 ERA. Ruth was sold to the Yankees that December and made just five mound appearances in his final 16 seasons.

Ohtani became the second Japanese MVP winner after Seattle outfielder Ichiro Suzuki in 2001.

"I've dealt with a lot of doubters, especially from my days in Japan, but tried not to let that get to me, let the pressure get to me," Ohtani said. "I just wanted to have fun and see what kinds of numbers I could put up and what type of performance I could put up."

Harper received 17 of 30 first-place votes and 348 points from a separate panel. Washington outfielder Juan Soto was second with six firsts and 274 points, and San Diego shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. was third with two firsts and 244 points.

Harper overcame getting hit on the left cheek with a 96.9 mph pitch from Génesis Cabrera of the St. Louis Cardinals on April 28, a ball that ricocheted off Harper's left wrist. Tears came to his eyes when he learned he had won, and he talked about what he had overcome.

"I was, `Oh, I'm great. I'm fine.' I'm pressing my face, `I'm good and I'm OK to get back,' not knowing that maybe it was a little bit too soon for myself," Harper said.

He hit .211 with three RBIs in May, then went on the injured list between May 22 and June 5.

"I had to take a break and understand that my wrist was still hurt, my face and my mental state probably wasn't the greatest," Harper said.

He finished with a .309 average and 35 homers for Philadelphia. The 29-year-old slugger led the majors with a .465 slugging percentage and 1.044 OPS, tied for the lead with 42 doubles and had 84 RBIs.

Harper was a unanimous MVP winner with Washington in 2015 and became the fifth player to win MVPs for different teams after Jimmie Foxx, Frank Robinson, Barry Bonds and Alex Rodriguez.

"This one just felt a little bit different," Harper said. "I think being a little bit older, a little bit more mature, being able to have the teammates I do, have the family now that I do with my kids."

Harper earned a $500,000 bonus for winning MVP in his third season of a $330 million, 13-year contract.

He thanked his personal chef, Dan.

"Knowing I wasn't going to have an empty stomach any night," Harper said. "Having family dinner each night is big for us. So after a game, no matter if I'm 0 for 4 or 4 for 4, no matter if we lost or if we won, and everybody's happy, everybody's sad, I was getting home and we were going to have dinner together each night. And being able to sit down with your family and have dinner kind of puts things in perspective."

Soto, a first-time All-Star at age 23, hit .313 with 29 homers and 95 RBIs. He led the majors with 145 walks and a .465 on-base percentage.

Tatis, 22, led the NL with 42 home runs, hitting .282 with 97 RBIs.

Toronto first baseman Vladimir Guerrero Jr. was second in the AL vote with 29 seconds and 269 points, and Blue Jays second baseman Marcus Semien was third with 232 points. Kansas City catcher Salvador Perez got the other second-place vote.

Guerrero, 22, tied for the major league lead with 48 homers, batting .311 with 111 RBIs. His father, Vladimir, won the 2004 AL MVP award with the Anaheim Angels.

Semien batted .265 with 42 homers and 102 RBIs. The 31-year-old is among the top free agents this offseason.

This marked the first time since the Chicago Cubs' Andre Dawson and Toronto's George Bell in 1987 that neither MVP's team made the playoffs.

Syndergaard says Angels flew in while Mets were distracted

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)— Noah Syndergaard got a qualifying offer and not much else from the New York Mets over the past two months.

That's one big reason he's switching coasts to join Mike Trout, Shohei Ohtani and the Los Angeles Angels.

The imposing right-hander known as Thor said Friday he was thrilled to land with the Halos on a $21 million, one-year deal. He sees the move as an opportunity to reestablish himself as an elite starter after being limited by injuries and surgery to two brief appearances over the past two seasons.

"I think if I get back to my old self, then the combination one-two punch with myself and Shohei, and all the young talent that the Angels have, I think we can really make a run at this thing," Syndergaard said.

Syndergaard was immediately full of praise for the Angels' two MVPs, calling Ohtani "the most exciting player in the game" and Trout "the best player the game has ever seen, so I want to help get him a ring."

Syndergaard had spent his entire big league career with the Mets, but he feels the organization was preoccupied with replacing its front office while his future was up in the air.

"I didn't really hear from them all that much in the last two months from the end of the season until now," he said. "I understand they had a lot on their plates."

Syndergaard still said leaving New York was "the hardest decision of my life. But I definitely think that I made the right decision."

The Mets' organizational upheaval was "definitely in the back of my mind a little bit," Syndergaard added. "This is an important year for me. This is kind of a make-or-break time for me. I didn't want to gamble on that kind of uncertainty that's been going on with them."

New York hired former Angels general manager Billy Eppler this week, but Syndergaard was already headed to the West Coast to join the Angels, who are desperate to end their skids of six straight losing seasons and seven straight non-playoff campaigns.

Syndergaard said Angels GM Perry Minasian pursued him ardently from the opening hours of free agency. The executive won him over at dinner in New York with his agent, presenting a detailed plan for the upcoming season and showing impressive knowledge of Syndergaard's pitching mechanics, right down to identifying specific changes Syndergaard was already considering to improve his delivery.

"I could just sense his passion, his desire to win right now, and that got me really fired up," Syndergaard said.

The talent on the Angels' roster also impressed Syndergaard, even though the club hasn't done much with it in recent years largely because it has long lacked quality starting pitching. Minasian is determined to change that, and he felt Syndergaard was a potential ace who would be available if the Angels were aggressive and financially generous.

"When he's right, he's one of the better pitchers in the game," Minasian said. "He's one of those guys, you want to give him the ball in big spots. The aggressiveness he pitches with, the moxie, I think complements our rotation really well. ... It's somewhat flattering, the fact that he picked us. It's a partnership. We're betting on him, and he's betting on us. He is not coming here to lose."

Syndergaard said he expects to be on an overall innings limit, although a number hasn't been chosen. The Angels intend to use a six-man rotation again this year as part of their usual plan to maximize Ohtani's two-way abilities, so a slightly limited number of starts should help Syndergaard in his full return from Tommy John surgery.

Minasian isn't done shopping for starters, saying he "would like to add multiples." Behind Ohtani and Syndergaard, Patrick Sandoval and José Suárez appeared to pitch their way into 2022 rotation spots last year, but the rest of the group is in flux.

But the Angels have already made what's likely to be the most important purchase in their offseason shopping. Syndergaard said he'll move to the Newport Beach area quickly to begin his offseason throwing program and to start "soaking up that sunshine."

SULC 5th Annual Bike Race next Sunday

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Saipan Unity Lions Club will host its 5th Annual Bike Race next Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021, in Marpi.

Bong Martinez, SULC Marketing & Communications officer, said there will be two courses for men and women. The first course is the long course and will encompass the Banzai/Mobil/1-Million Gallon Water Tank Turnaround/Suicide Cliff/Bird Island/Banza route, while the easy course will be the Banzai/Mobil/Banzai route. Both courses will have mountain bike and road bike categories.

"This is a fundraising event which we will conduct to generate funds to help us raise awareness and deliver services in line with the Lions global causes which includes vision, hunger, diabetes, childhood cancer, and environment," he said.

Martinez added that proceeds from the SULC 5th Annual Bike Race fundraiser will be used for various year-long programs that are in line with the aforementioned service goals as well as other humanitarian services as the needs arise.

To register, visit www.webscorer.com and the deadline for registration is on Nov. 24, 2021. Online registration fee is $20 plus online processing fee of $1 for a total of $21 paid via PayPal. All registrants will get free T-shirts with the first 50 early registrants getting free cycling glasses.

Martinez said all health and safety protocols approved by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force for this bike race event will be implemented. Masks and hand sanitizers will be provided by SULC.

Last year over 100 took part in SULC's 4th Annual Bike Race that was topped by Joel Buco (long road bike category) and Butch Sublemente (long MTB category). The short course were won by Ronald Bernardo (road bike), Michael Aparte (MTB), Julie Rose Felipe (women's road bike), and Mariel Panaligan (women's MTB).

Over 100 took part in SULC's 4th Annual Bike Race last year with veteran biker Joel Buco, seen here in this file photo, winning the long road bike category. MARK RABAGO

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	12	5	.706	—
New York	9	7	.563	2½
Boston	9	8	.529	3
Philadelphia	9	8	.529	3
Toronto	8	9	.471	4

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	11	5	.688	—
Miami	11	6	.647	½
Charlotte	10	8	.556	2
Atlanta	8	9	.471	3½
Orlando	4	13	.235	7½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	11	5	.688	—
Cleveland	9	8	.529	2½
Milwaukee	9	8	.529	2½
Indiana	7	11	.389	5
Detroit	4	11	.267	6½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	9	6	.600	—
Memphis	8	8	.500	1½
San Antonio	4	11	.267	5
New Orleans	3	15	.167	7½
Houston	1	15	.063	8½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	11	5	.688	—
Denver	9	7	.563	2
Portland	9	8	.529	2½
Minnesota	7	9	.438	4
Oklahoma City	6	10	.375	5

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	14	2	.875	—
Phoenix	12	3	.800	1½
L.A. Clippers	9	7	.563	5
L.A. Lakers	8	9	.471	6½
Sacramento	6	11	.353	8½

BY THE ASSOCIATRED PRESS

From left, Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation treasurer and Marianas Canoe Club treasurer Jose Quan, NMNPSF vice president and Marianas Canoe Club president Tim Asaivao, NMNPSF secretary and Marianas Pacific Paddlers member TaAnn Kabua-Demapan, NMNPSF president, CNMI national coach, and Saipan Paddling Club president/head coach Justin Andrew, and NMNPSF race director and Napu Outrigger Canoe Club vice president/head coach Jason Tarkong. MARK RABAGO

GOTO

From Page 20

on and off the soccer pitch.

"I'm glad that his continued hard work and dedication has been seen by Park University. He set his goal earlier and stated that he would like to play college soccer. Then he contacted many colleges by himself. Also following Sunjoon Tenorio, Dai Podziewski, and Thiphi Austria he proved that our national team players can play a higher level like mainland college varsity teams," he said.

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director also said prior to his ward's commitment to Park University, he spoke with other college soccer coaches regarding Goto and they showed a lot of interest in him.

"What they saw is Kohtaro's ability like his skills on the pitch. They also talked about his creativity and technique. They also saw his off-the-pitch skills and attitude, too."

He added that college soccer is a totally different environment compared to soccer in the CNMI.

"A player will have to stay separate from family, lots of competition in the team, and they have to adapt to a different style of play, etc. A player needs to have off-the-pitch skills like self-reliance, communication skills, resilience, etc. In our national team program, we have a limited environment but we try to develop these off-the-pitch skills too, for example we go to off-island training camps and participate in international tournaments. We also have mental skill training. Kohtaro developed and learned these skills throughout our program," said Mita.

"I believe if he continues to work hard to prepare to play college and the U20 Asian Cup Qualifier in October 2022 then I look forward to seeing further his growth not only in college but also in the national team," he added.

Goto thanked his family and friends for always supporting him through the highs and lows and even during his college application process.

"Honestly, I thought I wasn't going to get any replies from the colleges I applied to. My family and friends motivated me and pushed me to keep going so thank you! I also want to especially thank Sebastien Manabat for teaching me the college process by marketing myself to coaches and seeing what fits me. He helped me back in June and from there, I learned a lot from him because I was planning to get a recruiter but he taught me how to properly market myself and now I want to thank him for helping get me 40 college coaches interested," said the son of Taro and Sheila Goto.

TRADITIONAL

From Page 20

bring them here. More is coming but we're very appreciative and thankful for everyone who were able to make time to come out today and witness the blessings of the six new canoes," he said.

Andrew added that the blessing ceremony is a Pacific-wide tradition but find its roots in Carolinian culture.

"That's why we brought in two of our master navigators and seafaring people who are knowledgeable about the whole culture of the ocean," he said.

Aside from Andrew, other NMNPSF board member that witnessed the blessing ceremony were NMNPSF treasurer and Marianas Canoe Club treasurer Jose Quan, NMNPSF vice president and Marianas Canoe Club president Tim Asaivao, NMNPSF secretary and Marianas Pacific Paddlers member TaAnn Kabua-Demapan, and NMNPSF race director and Napu Outrigger Canoe Club vice president/head coach Jason Tarkong.

In all, the Mini Games organizing committee for next year's quadrennial event ordered 36 outrigger canoes—18 of the V6 type and 18 of the V1 type for single paddlers.

A total of 14 players took part in the CNMI Women's Golf Association's November Ace of the Month Tournament last Saturday, Nov. 20, at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EUNAE

From Page 20

me up every time. Kyle and Alice, your mom won! I love you guys," she said.

She also extended her gratitude to her coach, Dong Kyu Lee.

The club continues to look for new members as the new season continues. For those interested in becoming a member of CWGA or for more information, contact CWGA president Yuko Togawa at 287-9856, vice president Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, or treasurer Lou Kim at 783-7317.

Tatum scores 33 points, Celtics beat Thunder, 111-105

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

SULC 5th Annual Bike Race next Sunday

PAGE 19

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres led the traditional blessing ceremony of six new canoes donated by the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 organizing committee to the Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation last Friday at Kilili Beach.

MARK RABAGO

Traditional blessing for Mini Games canoes

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI paddling community came out in full force for the traditional Carolinian blessing of the six canoes that the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 organizing committee donated to the Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres led the ceremony that saw the attendance of master navigators Tony Piailug and Cecilio Raiukiulipiy and other seafarers last Friday at Kilili Beach.

"Congratulations and with the Mini Games coming up next year, we couldn't be prouder than you guys representing us. So when you go out there have fun and work hard and wave our flag," said Torres.

Mini Games organizing committee CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta also congratulated the umbrella organization of all paddling clubs in the CNMI for the acquisition of the six new canoes and even challenged them to win the gold medal in home soil in next year's quadrennial event.

"It's quite exciting because we're also bringing in the topnotch paddlers from Tahiti, New Caledonia, Fiji…but we're going to get the gold next year, right?" he asked the national paddling team hopefuls.

What he got was a resounding "yeah!" from the over 30 NMNPSF members trying out for the national team.

NMNPSF president Justin Andrew thanked Torres, Babauta, and the Mini Games organizing committee for the turnover of the brand new canoes.

"I think the blessing brings all the special features of having brand new canoes here in the CNMI. It has been a culmination of the hard work, teamwork, and dedication to manufacture the canoes and

See TRADITIONAL on Page 19

Goto commits to Park University

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

NMI Boys U18 National Team standout Kohtaro Gato has committed to play college soccer at Park University. The Gilbert, Arizona school plays in the California Pacific Conference of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. They are known as the Buccaneers.

The 17-year-old senior at Marianas High School said Park University showed interest in him after assistant coach Logan Sanchez saw a highlight video through Linkedin.

"He was interested in having me for the Fall Season of 2022. From there, we spoke about the program and the school itself and the potential of me fitting in with his program and team," said Goto of how he was recruited by the school.

Right now, the 5'7" and 138-lb center attacking midfielder plans to major in psychology or exercise science with his athletic scholarship to Park University.

NMI Boys U18 National Team's Kohtaro Gato (10), seen here in action, will play college soccer at Park University in Gilbert, Arizona.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

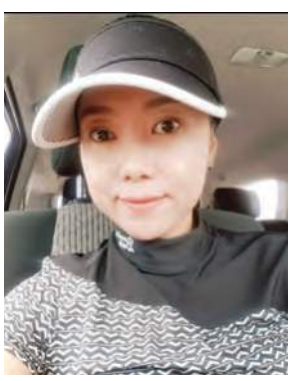
"I'm very excited to play college soccer because I want to be out of my comfort zone and see if I can compete with players in the mainland. It will be challenging because coach Sanchez said it's a very physical game there but I will prepare myself before I leave for college. My main goal in college soccer is to help my team win. I want to make a huge impact for Park University and hopefully win the conference and advance to Nationals! A goal just for myself is to score the most in the conference. It'll be a challenge but I'm definitely going to try!" he said.

NMI Boys U18 National Team head coach Michiteru Mita congratulated Goto and his home club, Tan Holdings FC, his family coaches, and his teammates who have supported his growth and development

See GOTO on Page 19

Eunae Jang tops CWGA November Ace

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Jang

Eunae "Sophia" Jang won the CNMI Women's Golf Association's November Ace of the Month Tournament last Saturday, Nov. 20, at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The 19-handicapper shot a net 67 built around a gross of 86 (44-42). Coming in second to Jang was Lorraine Babauta, who came away with a net score of 70 after shooting an 81 gross. The 11-handicapper had a 41 in the front nine and a 40 in the back nine. Coming in third in the November tilt was Mie Kim after the 16-handicapper posted a 73 net following a 42-47 in the first and last nine holes for a gross of 89.

A total of 14 players took part in the CWGA November Ace of the Month Tournament.

Jang, who has been playing the sport since 2006, said she always feels a certain high sharing the golf course with fellow CWGA members every month.

"It was a pleasure to play with good and nice people. I am very happy to win the CWGA tournament. I would like to thank all the CWGA ladies that were cheering for me."

The 40-year-old Incheon, South Korea native dedicated her win the in the CWGA November Ace of the Month Tournament to her family, especially her two children.

"I would also like to thank my loving family that cheers

See EUNAE on Page 19